



****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****
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AMWA Praises Consumer Confidence Report Legislation *Bill Will Update Water Quality Reporting for the Information Age*

Washington, D.C. – The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) today joined other major drinking water organizations in endorsing H.R. 1340, the “End Unnecessary Costs Caused by Report Mailing Act of 2011.” The bill would allow drinking water utilities whose water meets Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) standards to communicate their annual consumer confidence reports to the public over the Internet, saving thousands of dollars per year.

Rep. C.W. Bill Young (R-Fla.) introduced the legislation after hearing from local drinking water systems about the high cost of printing and mailing paper copies of annual consumer confidence reports – as required by the 1996 SDWA Amendments – even though more efficient electronic communication methods are readily available. EPA recently pledged to look at electronic reporting options as part of its “Retrospective Review of Existing Regulations,” but that review could take several years to complete.

“Much has changed in the fifteen years since enactment of the 1996 SDWA Amendments, such as the explosive growth of the Internet and electronic communications,” said Diane VanDe Hei, AMWA’s Executive Director. “But some parts of that successful law remain anchored in the Twentieth Century, including its requirement that drinking water systems use the postal mail to communicate water quality information to their customers.”

H.R. 1340 would update the 1996 statute to allow drinking water utilities to distribute consumer confidence reports over the Internet, while also ensuring that the public maintains robust access to water quality information. For example, utilities will still have to mail paper reports that announce a maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation, and will be required to mail a paper report to any customer who requests one.

“AMWA members have reported that electronic distribution of consumer confidence reports has the potential to save, in some cases, upwards of \$100,000 per year in printing and postage costs,” said VanDeHei. “These savings would put more funds from water ratepayers toward essential local water infrastructure projects that will create jobs.”

AMWA, along with the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), the National Association of Water Companies (NAWC), and the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) sent a letter of support for H.R. 1340 to Congressman Young today. A copy of that letter is [attached](#).

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The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies is an organization of the largest publicly owned drinking water suppliers in the United States.

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