

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2015

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
205 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
204 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Inhofe and Shuster and Ranking Members Boxer and DeFazio:

We write to you regarding the importance of investing in our nation's infrastructure, for both transportation and water. As you know, the current surface transportation extension is set to expire on December 4, 2015.

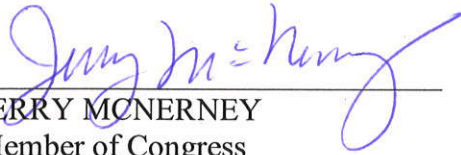
U.S. water infrastructure is crumbling, costing millions of dollars, hurting job growth, and impacting states' ability to manage droughts and water shortages. We lose an estimated 7 billion gallons of water per day from leaking pipes, with some cities losing as much as 30 percent of their water. There are enough shovel-ready drinking water projects around the U.S. that would create jobs for more than 400,000 American, including almost 90,000 direct construction jobs. In addition, nearly \$335 billion worth of repairs, upgrades, and replacements are needed by water systems in the next 20 years.

To help address this issue, Congress passed the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (PL 113-121), that makes crucial investments in our nation's infrastructure. Despite support from a variety of stakeholders, section 5028(a) of this legislation prohibited municipalities from using tax exempt bonds toward Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) projects.

The Senate-passed long-term highway bill, H.R. 22, included a provision striking that prohibition - a necessary fix to the WIFIA program. While similar language was excluded from the House-passed Surface Transportation Reauthorization & Reform Act, we encourage the Conference Committee to take action similar to the Senate and include language to eliminate section 5028(a) in any surface transportation reauthorization conference bill that may be developed by the conferees.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and we look forward to working with you on the important infrastructure needs of our great nation.

Sincerely,



JERRY MCNERNEY
Member of Congress



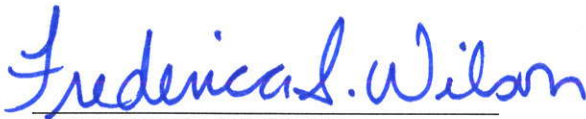
CARLOS CURBELO
Member of Congress



ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress



FREDERICA WILSON
Member of Congress



MARIO DIAZ-BALART
Member of Congress



EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
Member of Congress



JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



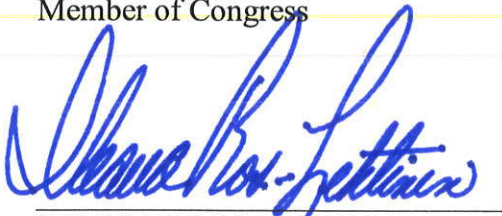
MARTHA MCSALLY
Member of Congress



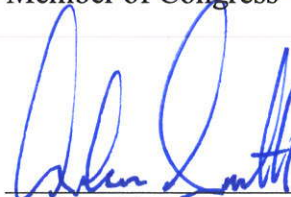
MIKE HONDA
Member of Congress



JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Member of Congress



ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress

John Garamendi

JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress

Chris Collins

CHRIS COLLINS
Member of Congress

Gregg Harper

GREGG HARPER
Member of Congress

Cc: House and Senate Transportation Conferees