



ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN
WATER AGENCIES

March 19, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chairman
The Honorable David Vitter, Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer and Ranking Member Vitter:

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies is pleased to support the inclusion of the “Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act” (WIFIA) as Title X of the “Water Resources Development Act of 2013.”

As you are aware, communities across the U.S. face staggering costs as they plan to replace their aging water infrastructure. The Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that the nation’s drinking water systems require nearly \$335 billion worth of investments over the next 20 years just to maintain their current levels of service, and this does not take into account additional costs that will be incurred as communities respond to future extreme weather events and emerging water quality and quantity concerns.

As proposed in Title X, a new WIFIA pilot program would allow EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to offer low-interest loans to help communities address these needs. Eligible projects would include those to repair, rehabilitate, and replace aging water infrastructure, develop new water sources through desalination and water recycling projects, and increase the energy efficiency of water utility operations. The program would focus on major water projects expected to cost more than \$20 million – large-scale infrastructure improvements that are often too large to receive meaningful assistance through the existing Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs.

Importantly, the WIFIA pilot program would complement, not replace or reduce, appropriations for the existing SRF programs. Because of the wide range of infrastructure challenges facing the water sector, we are confident that WIFIA and the SRFs will each have an important role to play in addressing these needs.

Again, we support the inclusion of the WIFIA pilot program in the “Water Resources Development Act of 2013.” We look forward to continuing to work with you to refine the language and ensure passage of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Diane VanDe Hei
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Ben Cardin
The Honorable John Boozman

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Diane VanDe Hei
Executive Director