



March 18, 2015

The Honorable Ben Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

On behalf of the undersigned water utility and environmental organizations, we write to you today in support of S. 741, the “Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Act of 2015.” This legislation will address a critical need by helping communities across the country ensure their drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure is able to withstand the variety of threats posed by changing hydrologic conditions and extreme weather.

NASA and NOAA recently announced that 2014 was Earth’s warmest year on record, and extreme weather events – ranging from severe storms in the East to prolonged drought in the West – continue to batter our nation. S. 741 outlines a policy to help our nation’s drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities build resiliency to these new challenges and position themselves to continue providing affordable, quality water service into the coming decades.

The “Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Act of 2015,” and its companion measure introduced earlier this month in the House of Representatives, will offer competitive matching funds to help communities undertake projects to adapt their infrastructure to extreme weather events and the long term impacts of changing hydrologic conditions. Eligible projects will include those that conserve water or increase efficiency in its use, preserve or improve water quality, rebuild or relocate threatened infrastructure, protect source waters and ecosystems, and implement advanced treatment technologies such as water reuse and recycling.

The legislation encourages water systems to utilize innovative infrastructure approaches that will serve as models for other communities struggling with similar water management challenges. Local water utilities will also be able to use funding assistance to increase their use of renewable energy or to conduct local-level analyses of future water resource challenges they will face. In sum, the legislation will encourage

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communities across the country to build resiliency into their infrastructure today, while helping ensure uninterrupted water and wastewater service for decades to come.

Again, we support S. 741, the “Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Act of 2015” as an important step in our nation’s effort to adapt its critical infrastructure to extreme weather events and changing hydrologic conditions. We thank you for your leadership on this issue, and look forward to working with you toward the passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

American Public Works Association

American Rivers

American Society of Landscape Architects

Association of California Water Agencies

Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

California Association of Sanitation Agencies

National Association of Clean Water Agencies

National Association of Water Companies

National Wildlife Federation

Natural Resources Defense Council

Water Environment Federation

WaterReuse Association

Water Utility Climate Alliance