



**ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN
WATER AGENCIES**

LEADERS IN WATER

1620 I Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20006

P 202.331.2820 **F** 202.785.1845
amwa.net

April 27, 2016

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Ranking Member
Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Ranking Member Boxer:

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) would like to express its appreciation for the commitment to water infrastructure reflected in the “Water Resources Development Act of 2016” (S. 2848). Our association, representing the nation’s largest publicly owned drinking water utilities, supports numerous provisions in this legislation that will help communities across the country upgrade and repair their water infrastructure to benefit public health and economic development.

In particular, we are pleased that S. 2848 recognizes the complementary roles that the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program will play in helping communities pay for much needed water infrastructure investments. We support the Sense of the Senate as expressed in Section 7002 that Congress should “provide robust funding” for the SRF programs into the future. We also support Section 7302, which would eliminate WIFIA’s “pilot” designation and make it a permanent part of EPA’s toolbox of water infrastructure finance programs. Additionally, we believe the \$70 million in WIFIA credit subsidies provided under Section 7401 will effectively jumpstart WIFIA and ensure it is positioned to begin facilitating low-cost water infrastructure loans to communities as soon as possible.

Aside from these important provisions, we appreciate other sections of the legislation that will help communities and low-income homeowners replace lead service lines, offer assistance to encourage schools to test their drinking water for lead, and deliver much-needed aid to Flint, Michigan. In sum, S. 2848 represents meaningful progress toward improving our water infrastructure.

Thank you again for your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Diane VanDe Hei
Chief Executive Officer

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