



The Honorable Tom Udall  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss  
416 Russell Senate Office Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington DC, 20510

July 11, 2014

Dear Senator Udall and Senator Chambliss,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we would like to express our support for S. 2225, *The Smart Water Resource Management Conservation and Efficiency Act*, to help increase energy and water efficiency in water and wastewater systems.

The state of water and wastewater infrastructure in the U.S. is in a serious state of disrepair—aging infrastructure, population growth, and more extreme weather events are all contributing to the breakdown of the country's water and wastewater systems. Some 2.6 trillion gallons of water are lost annually, primarily as a result of premature pipe corrosion leaks and breaks. Repairing these leaks and making the other necessary upgrades to meet Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act standards does not come without a large price tag—EPA estimates modernizing the nation's water and wastewater infrastructure over the next 20 years will cost \$384.2 billion and \$293.7 billion, respectively.

Water and wastewater systems are also large consumers of electricity. An estimated 3-4 percent of total U.S. energy use is consumed by extracting, treating, and conveying water. In some municipalities however, water and wastewater treatment can account for up to 35% of annual municipal energy use. Water and wastewater treatment plants have not historically been designed with energy efficiency in mind. Today, we better understand that upgrading water and wastewater infrastructure with innovative water and energy efficiency technologies can yield more effective

management of our water system outputs (making the best use of every drop of water we have), thereby easing customer rate burdens and facilitating delivery of reliable and safe drinking water.

In the era of decreasing federal assistance and increasing water and wastewater needs, utilities around the country are looking for innovative ways to make their operations more cost-effective. Your amendment, which would establish a smart water resource management pilot program to award grants to eligible entities to demonstrate innovative technology-based solutions to increase water and energy efficiency, would provide valuable assistance in testing and disseminating the innovative technology needed to transform our water and wastewater sectors to meet today's twenty-first century challenges.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and we urge all members of the Senate to support S. 2225.

Sincerely,

**Alliance for Water Efficiency**

**American Public Works Association**

**American Water Works Association**

**Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies**

**Digital Energy & Sustainability Solutions Campaign**

**National Association of Clean Water Agencies**

**National Association of Water Companies**

**U.S. Water Alliance**

**Water Environment Federation**

**WateReuse Association**