



September 29, 2017

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
The Honorable Tom Udall, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

The undersigned water and wastewater industry organizations urge you to fund the U.S. EPA Office of Water's Water Security Division (WSD) in FY18 at the FY17 enacted level of \$10.2 million. We respectfully request that the Subcommittee include language to this effect in the report that will accompany the FY18 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

There are nearly 53,000 drinking water systems and 16,000 wastewater systems serving American communities nationwide. Each year thousands of these systems rely on the tools, training, workshops and educational guides produced by WSD. These non-regulatory knowledge resources help utilities protect critical water and wastewater infrastructure from terrorism, cyber attacks and natural disasters and to recover from incidents and emergencies.

The impacts of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria underscore the importance of a resilient water and wastewater sector and, by extension, the value of WSD's products and support. For example, WSD has worked with the sector and local response agencies to develop exercises that help utilities test and strengthen their emergency response plans. WSD, in collaboration with the sector, has also hosted workshops across the country on power resilience, emergency response and management, mutual aid agreements, and interdependencies with other critical sectors. These free events and other WSD activities improved the ability of utilities to plan for and respond to impacts from the recent hurricanes.

We are very concerned about the administration's FY18 budget proposal to eliminate funding for WSD. Such a move would terminate the critical non-regulatory resources produced by WSD, and would only provide minimal resources for EPA to fulfill its responsibilities as a Sector Specific Agency under Presidential Policy Directive 21 (PPD-21). As a result, WSD's highly effective workshops and trainings, updates to its electronic assessment tools, investments in much-needed work on decontamination

September 29, 2017
Page 2

and contamination response, and other contributions to sector preparedness would cease.

Security and preparedness against physical and cyber threats and natural disasters require our sector and state and federal partners to work together. Continuing a stable funding level of \$10.2 million for EPA's Water Security Division is an extremely worthwhile and solid investment.

We hope you will ensure through report language that this funding level is maintained.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane VanDe Hei
CEO
Association of Metropolitan
Water Agencies

Adam Krantz
CEO
National Association of
Clean Water Agencies

Eileen O'Neill
Executive Director
Water Environment
Association

David LaFrance
CEO
American Water Works
Association

Michael Deane
Executive Director
National Association of
Water Companies