



December 6, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cochran, Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Leahy, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Murkowski, Chairman Calvert, Ranking Member Udall, and Ranking Member McCollum:

On behalf of the undersigned water and wastewater utility organizations, we would like to express our support for including \$33.122 million for homeland security activities as part of the Science and Technology account of U.S. EPA's FY18 budget. This sum, which is equal to current funding and the amount provided in the Senate chairman's mark of the FY18 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, would allow EPA's Office of Water to continue carrying out the critical functions of the Water Security Division (WSD).

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

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This fall's string of hurricanes underscores 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.

Unfortunately, President Trump's FY18 budget proposal for EPA would eliminate all WSD funding, thus putting these critical activities at risk. While the House-approved FY18 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill would restore about half of the funding available for WSD (in order to satisfy duties related to being the water sector's Sector Specific Agency), it would still leave EPA unable to continue providing important training and tools to utilities and local officials.

However, the chairman's mark of the Senate Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies spending bill would fully restore the proposed \$10.025 million cut to homeland security activities under EPA's Science and Technology account, bringing its total funding to the FY17 enacted level of \$33.122 million. This restored funding would enable WSD to continue its collaborative work with the water sector.

Again, we strongly support the inclusion of \$33.122 million in the final omnibus appropriations bill for homeland security activities under EPA's Science and Technology account, thereby providing the resources necessary for the effective continuation of WSD. We believe this represents a worthwhile and solid investment in the security and resilience of the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems.

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
Federation

David LaFrance
CEO
American Water Works
Association

Michael Deane
Executive Director
National Association of
Water Companies