



April 15, 2024

The Honorable Rick Crawford
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Crawford,

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies thanks you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 7922, legislation that would establish a Water Risk and Resilience Organization to oversee the cyber preparedness of the nation’s water systems. AMWA is proud to offer its support for this important legislation.

Cyber threats targeting both informational and operational systems today pose a growing threat to the nation’s water systems, and a successful cyber-attack could threaten public health while also undermining the public’s confidence in their water supply. While there are various public sector and private sector resources available to help water systems stay apprised of these risks, the federal government lacks any sort of oversight or oversight mechanism to make sure that water system managers are taking reasonable actions to defend themselves in cyberspace.

H.R. 7922 would address this present lack of oversight by directing EPA to certify a Water Risk and Resilience Organization comprised of individuals with expertise in cybersecurity and water system operations. The WRRO would be empowered to develop appropriate, tiered, risk-based cybersecurity requirements and implementation plans for the nation’s water systems. EPA would collaborate with the WRRO and give approval to cyber requirements determined to be just and reasonable.

H.R. 7922 bases the WRRO on the successful model of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) in the electric sector, which leverages the knowledge of sector experts to develop binding cybersecurity best practices for individual electric utilities. AMWA believes the same model holds promise for the water sector, while minimizing the risk of federal regulators directly imposing broad, unworkable mandates on thousands of individual water utilities.

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Again, AMWA supports H.R. 7922 as a critical piece of the puzzle to defend the nation's water systems from criminals and bad actors in cyberspace. We look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom Dobbins".

Tom Dobbins
Chief Executive Officer