



**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

May 6, 2021

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) is proud to express its support for S. 1248, the Outdoor Restoration Partnership Act of 2021. We believe the legislation will make important strides to protect critical sources of drinking water from wildfires and other environmental threats.

AMWA is an organization of the nation's largest publicly owned drinking water systems, which collectively provide quality drinking water to more than 156 million Americans. Many water systems, including those in the West, rely on source waters that face increasing risks related to wildfires and other extreme events related to global climate change. Your legislation will promote cooperative efforts among all levels of government to help sensitive watersheds build resilience to these and similar hazards.

Sources of drinking water are at a particular risk of negative impacts due to wildfire. Not only can ash and contaminants settle in lakes and reservoirs, but vegetation that holds soil in place can be burned away, thus causing erosion that releases additional sediment, nutrients, and other substances into water bodies. The Outdoor Restoration Partnership Act empowers leaders at the local and state levels to work collaboratively to rehabilitate and enhance the natural infrastructure that helps minimize these threats. The legislation also authorizes funding necessary to make these efforts successful.

Again, AMWA strongly supports the Outdoor Restoration Partnership Act of 2021, and we appreciate your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to encouraging its passage this year as Congress focuses on legislation related to infrastructure and climate change response.

Sincerely,

Diane VanDe Hei  
Chief Executive Officer

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