[DATE]

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal The Honorable Lisa McClain

U.S. House of Representatives U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Lowenthal and McClain:

On behalf of the [AGENCY NAME], I write to express [AGENCY NAME] strong support for your Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety (WIPPES) Act. Your bipartisan legislation takes a critical step to address the pervasive, but ultimately preventable, problem of the flushing of non-flushable wet wipes that cause undue adverse impacts to clean water infrastructure across the nation. [AGENCY DESCRIPTION]. We urge that the WIPPES Act be included in any larger infrastructure investment package Congress acts upon this year.

As the entities responsible for collecting and treating communities’ wastewater, we have firsthand knowledge of the unique treatment and management challenges and pollution threats to our water supplies. This includes the flushing of non-flushable wet wipes. Often times, these wipes are marketed as flushable. However, frequently these products are composed of synthetic, plastic materials that are not compatible with the sewer systems and infrastructure. As a result, when these products travel through the sewer systems they do not break down, but rather accumulate with fats, oils and grease and become large obstructions in the pipes that ultimately clog pumps, collection systems, and motors, causing backups and treatment equipment failures. If the wipes manage to make it to the treatment facilities, the products are broken down into smaller microfibers and microplastics that can be inadvertently released back into the environment.

Your legislation would address this unique problem in a straightforward and reasonable approach, by establishing “Do Not Flush” labeling requirements for non-flushable wet wipes product packaging. Such labeling requirements establishes a source control solution by stopping the use of flushing these wipes down the toilet as an acceptable disposal method and, as a result, decrease the strains that the flushing of these products have upon property owners, infrastructure, ratepayers, and the surrounding environment.

Thank you for your continued efforts to address and develop solutions to the unique problems of the flushing of non-flushable wipes and including the clean water sector in the legislation. If [AGENCY NAME] can be a resource for you in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me at [CONTACT INFORMATION]

Sincerely,