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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jeffery A. Eger
Alexandria, VA

February 25, 2013

The Honorable Tim Bishop

U.S. House of Representatives

306 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

RE: Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2013

Dear Mr. Bishop:

On behalf of the 36,000 members of the Water Environment Federation, I want to thank you for introducing the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2013.

This legislation recognizes the need for continued federal investment in essential clean water infrastructure. This investment will create thousands of new domestic jobs in the engineering, construction and clean water sectors, drive technology innovation, and protect the gains we've made in protecting public health and improving water quality since the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972.

The CWSRF is the anchor for Federal investment in wastewater infrastructure. The federal role in maintaining this essential infrastructure is lower than any time in the past 40 years. Given the likelihood of additional reductions during this fiscal year, it is even more important that this highly successful, state-administered program be reauthorized and strengthened.

The bill appropriately provides eligibility for projects that address the need for resilience in the face of climate change, gives priority to measures that incorporate innovation, and provides additional financial assistance for communities to address wet weather overflows.

The legislation incorporates a new financing tool enabling loans and loan guarantees for large or regional projects and in support of State CWSRF programs. WEF supports creation of a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority [WIFIA], patterned after the successful Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act [TIFIA] program. WIFIA would dramatically leverage available Federal funds and serve as a complement to the CWSRF. The provisions of this bill are a positive step toward that goal.

Renewal of the federal commitment to clean water and investment in our essential public health infrastructure is long overdue. We are committed to working with you and other Members of Congress, and with our partners in the water sector, to build consensus around legislation that can receive broad bi-partisan support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffery A. Eger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Jeffery A. Eger
Executive Director

Formed in 1928, the Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization with 36,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. WEF and its Member Associations proudly work to achieve our mission of protecting water quality worldwide.