

U.S. Senator Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

June 24, 2016

Subject: Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (S. 2848)

Dear Senator McConnell,

On April 28th the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee reported S.2848, the *Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016* on a near unanimous vote of 19-1, demonstrating that strong bipartisan support exists in the Senate for addressing our nation's water resource infrastructure. We urge full Senate consideration as quickly as possible.

In addition to authorizing critical U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) projects, this bipartisan package includes common sense reforms to the Clean Water Act (CWA) that save ratepayers millions of dollars, leverage the private marketplace for investments in water infrastructure, and strengthen tools to protect public health.

If enacted, S. 2848 will provide much needed relief to communities struggling to comply with unfunded federal mandates by ensuring clean water investments remain affordable to ratepayers and generate the greatest water quality gains at the lowest cost. The legislative package is especially valuable to communities like Lexington, Louisville, and those in Northern Kentucky, all of which are currently under federal consent decree to meet CWA requirements.

The bipartisan package also includes a range of provisions that address infrastructure investment, health, and safety issues of our drinking water and wastewater systems. Critically important are provisions to help communities struggling to ensure their drinking water supplies are not contaminated with lead, and authorizations for important flood control projects, such as a project to restore a seventy-year old flood wall and levee system in Paducah, Kentucky.

Communities in regions across the country from the Great Lakes to the West to the Southeast will directly benefit by enacting S. 2848 – we urge your support and its swift consideration by the full Senate. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Clark
Mayor
City of Franklin

Thomas J. Kutcher
Director of Public Works & Utilities
City of Murray, KY

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