



Association of
Metropolitan
Sewerage Agencies

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Executive Director
Ken Kirk

September 19, 2001

Nancy Stoner
Director, Clean Water Project
Natural Resources Defense Council
1200 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005

Re: September 10, 2001 Environmental Caucus SSO Letter

Dear Ms. Stoner:

The Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA) takes immediate exception to the above letter's assertion that our nation's publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) seek a regulatory program for sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) that "reward[s] sewage treatment plant operators that discharge raw sewage from pipes" and gives "free reign to violate Clean Water Act requirements." Your suggestion that this is the case is the most egregious "myth" in this misguided and inaccurate letter.

Here is the sewer operators' "truth" – AMSA's member agencies are made up of individuals who are real environmentalists, implementing programs that benefit the nation's public health and environment. These individuals work tirelessly every day performing the on-the-ground, tangible tasks that advance our nation's water quality goals. They are citizens of the very communities you so erroneously state they desire to pollute recklessly and without penalty.

Let me be clear. AMSA supports the EPA's development of a federal rule governing SSO control. Like you, we seek a "consensus solution" to SSOs. The January 2001 draft proposal, however, does not represent such a consensus.

AMSA will develop detailed responses to the points made in the September 10 letter. It is our hope that the Environmental Caucus will direct its future efforts to making constructive, rather than destructive, contributions to this important matter.

AMSA Letter to SSO Environmental Caucus
September 19, 2001
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "K. Kirk", written in a cursive style.

Ken Kirk
Executive Director

cc: *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Christine Todd Whitman, Administrator
Linda Fisher, Deputy Administrator
Robert E. Fabricant, General Counsel
G. Tracy Mehan, III, Assistant Administrator for Water
Edward Krenik, Associate Administrator for Congressional & Intergovernmental
Relations

Office of Management and Budget

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Director
Marcus Peacock, Associate Director, Natural Resources, Energy & Science

Environmental Caucus

Tricia Sheets, Director of Administration, Cahaba River Society
Sarah J. Meyland, Executive Director and General Counsel, Citizens Campaign for the
Environment