



March 20, 2007

The Honorable John Spratt
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt And Ranking Member Ryan:

As representatives of tens of thousands of water and wastewater agencies and companies throughout the United States serving virtually all Americans, we are writing to urge your support within the Budget Resolution for Farm Bill conservation funding at significantly increased levels over those of recent years.

Ongoing reauthorization of the Farm Bill presents a unique opportunity to build important partnerships between the water industry and agricultural communities to address water quality issues throughout the country. In order to achieve this vital objective, Congress must demonstrate a strong commitment through the Budget Resolution to Farm Bill conservation programs so that the agriculture authorizing committees have the necessary resources to meet this commitment.

The benefits of conservation activities would accrue not only to agriculture but to the entire nation, particularly in areas of improved water and air quality, public health protection, income for agriculture producers, and environmental stewardship. Again we urge your support for increased levels of funding in the Budget Resolution for Farm Bill conservation programs.

Sincerely,

American Water Works Association
Association of California Water Agencies
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
California Association of Sanitation Agencies
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Water Environment Federation
Western Coalition of Arid States

Cc: Budget Committee Members