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Ken Kirk

February 5, 2001

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on
VA, HUD & Independent Agencies
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Bond:

The Association of Metropolitan Sewerage (AMSA) thanks you and your Committee for the inclusion of \$1,000,000 for the National Biosolids Partnership in the FY2001 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) appropriation. We commend you for your vision in supporting this progressive environmental program. Since its inception in 1997, the Partnership, and scores of volunteers have dedicated considerable time and expertise in developing a cutting edge framework, or blueprint, for a comprehensive Environmental Management System (EMS) for biosolids. Implementation of the EMS program is expected to enhance public acceptance of biosolids and facilitate the management of this important environmental resource by local wastewater agencies.

This past year, the NBP developed several key components of the EMS blueprint that will be pilot tested by 27 "charter" public agencies in 2001, and also expanded its outreach efforts with the launching of a web site, www.biosolids.org. The website provides a central clearinghouse for biosolids information. Using FY2001 appropriations, the NBP will continue pilot testing the EMS blueprint with up to 40 public agencies, expand communications, conduct workshops, and set guidelines for third-party verification.

We are asking for your continued support to ensure the success of the program. We are requesting \$1.1 million in FY2002 appropriations in order to finalize the EMS blueprint based on the results of the pilot program, demonstrate the third party verification program, develop audit protocols, establish certification protocols, and continue communications through the website and training workshops.

AMSA's more than 250 municipal wastewater agency members treat and reclaim the majority of the wastewater and biosolids processed throughout the country. Our members take pride in this responsibility and believe that more can be done to promote and strengthen public acceptance of biosolids reuse and recycling efforts. Through our participation in the Partnership, along with the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and EPA, we are taking a leadership role in moving forward in a positive and proactive way to ensure that the public has confidence in how we administer our biosolids management programs back home. Regardless of whether a wastewater agency chooses to land apply, incinerate, or landfill its biosolids, the Partnership's initiative will ensure greater accountability of how this important resource is managed.

The Partnership has been working diligently over the past three years to make the EMS program a reality, and with your critical assistance, has made enormous progress in developing the core elements of the program. Current initiatives of the Partnership include:

- 1) Implementation of a pilot demonstration program at 27 public wastewater agencies to introduce, test, and assess the interim final EMS blueprint approach;
- 2) Development and pilot testing of an independent, third party verification system;
- 3) Improvement of communications among biosolids professionals through Internet access to technical resources, regulatory documents, success stories, news and links to regional biosolids associations, state regulators, academia, and other stakeholder groups;
- 4) Promotion of the biosolids EMS through several planned workshops, with a goal of having at least 110 organizations committed to the biosolids EMS program by the end of 2002;
- 5) Development of program entry/exit criteria, audit protocols, certification protocols, and the establishment of an EMS governance board to oversee program implementation.

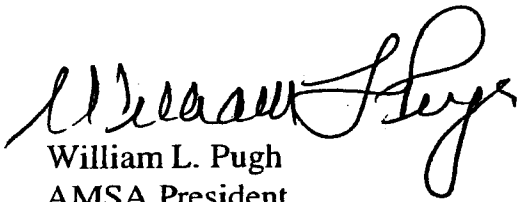
The work of the Partnership and its dedicated volunteers demonstrates the commitment of the wastewater industry to go beyond current regulatory requirements to address the public's concerns about biosolids management in a meaningful and appropriate way. We firmly believe that this industry-driven, voluntary program will succeed in achieving its goal of enhancing public acceptance of biosolids.

On behalf of the AMSA officers and members meeting in San Diego, California this week, we offer our sincere gratitude to you and the Committee for helping nurture the Partnership in these formative years and for your continued support in the future. AMSA is committed to the successful implementation of the

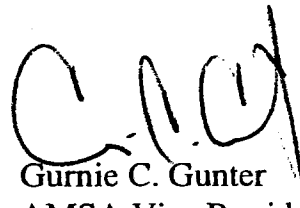
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biosolids EMS program and through the Partnership, will strive to attain our ultimate goal of helping communities to improve environmental performance. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact AMSA's Executive Director, Ken Kirk, at (202) 833-4653. Thank you for your consideration.

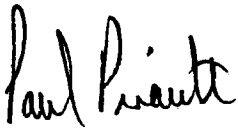
Sincerely,



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