

January 28, 2005

The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support \$1 million in EPA's FY 2006 Budget for the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP)

Dear Chairman Lewis, Chairman Cochran, Congressman Obey and Senator Byrd:

We are writing to thank you for your continued support for the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP) and to request that this support continue in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's fiscal year (FY) 2006 budget. Specifically, we request a renewed appropriation of \$1 million to fund the NBP's environmental management system for biosolids program.

The NBP is an alliance of the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA) in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and was created to implement a nonfederal alternative for the oversight and management of the biosolid byproducts of the nation's wastewater treatment plants.

The goal of the program in FY 2005 – 2006 is to reach out and recruit an additional 25 small and medium-sized public utilities into the NBP EMS program. The EMS program helps public agencies to go beyond minimum regulatory compliance, optimizes operations to reduce odors and improve product quality, and increases public education and communication

Due to Congressional support, seventy-three wastewater utilities in thirty-one States are currently participating in the program, including eight utilities in California and four utilities in Wisconsin. In order to participate in the NBP EMS program, a public utility must commit to a Code of Good Practice that provides a framework to guide the production, management, transportation, storage, and use or disposal of biosolids.

The NBP provides participating agencies with technical assistance, best practice training, and guidance on how to fully implement an EMS program for biosolids management. Once a utility fully implements its EMS, the NBP works with a third party EMS auditor to certify that the utility's programs meets NBP specifications.

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Enclosed, please find a copy of our 2004-2005 Annual Report with testimonials and case studies from successful participants. Please let us know if there is more information we can provide to your Committees. If you have further questions, please contact Tim Williams of the Water Environment Federation at 703-684-2437, or Lee Garrigan of Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies at (202) 833-4655.

Again, thank you for your support of the National Biosolids Partnership EMS program. AMSA and WEF urge you to continue to support the NBP program at \$1 million as part of EPA's budget in the VA-HUD-Independent Agencies FY 2006 appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



William J. Bertera
Executive Director
Water Environment Federation



Ken Kirk
Executive Director
Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies

ENCLOSURE

January 28, 2005

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House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

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January 28, 2005

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

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