



Association of
Metropolitan
Sewerage Agencies

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Executive Director
Ken Kirk

April 22, 2005

Honorable James M. Inhofe, Chair
Environment and Public Works
Committee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 10510

Honorable James M. Jeffords, Ranking
Member
Environment and Public Works
Committee
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for S. 732 and the Highway Stormwater Discharge Mitigation Program

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Senator Jeffords:

We are writing to express our strong support for the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005 (SAFETEA) (S. 732) as passed March 16 by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. The Committee's bill includes a provision to authorize \$867.6 million over five years for stormwater mitigation projects, using just 2% of the Surface Transportation Program funds. Such projects include stormwater retrofits, the recharge of groundwater, natural filters, stream restoration, minimization of stream bank erosion, innovative technologies, and others.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, polluted stormwater from impervious surfaces such as roads is a leading cause of impairment for nearly 40% of U.S. waterways not meeting water quality standards. Roadways produce some of the highest concentrations of pollutants such as phosphorus, suspended solids, bacteria, and heavy metals.

AMSA represents hundreds of publicly owned treatment works, many of which have municipal stormwater management responsibilities. Your continued support for S. 732, including the Highway Stormwater Discharge Mitigation Program, would provide much-needed support to these communities. Thank you for your leadership and please feel free to contact me at 202/833-4653 if AMSA can provide you with additional information.

Sincerely,

Ken Kirk
Executive Director