



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

Don Young
Chairman

James L. Oberstar
Ranking Democratic Member

Lloyd A. Jones, Chief of Staff
Elizabeth Megginson, Chief Counsel

July 7, 2005

David Heymsfeld, Democratic Chief of Staff

The Honorable Charles H. Taylor
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Taylor:

As you go to conference with the Senate on H.R. 2361, the Fiscal Year 2006 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, I would like to express my support for the National Biosolids Partnership. The Partnership, which is an alliance of the Water Environment Federation, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), promotes best practices for biosolids recycling.

Biosolids are a natural by-product of wastewater treatment, and when properly treated, can be safely recycled and used as a fertilizer to maintain productive soil and plant growth. Recycling biosolids improves water quality and ensures a cleaner and healthier environment.

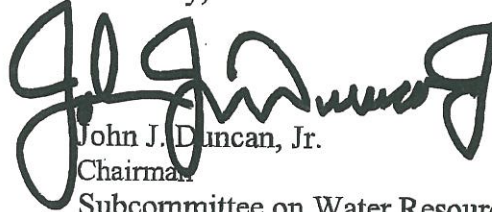
The Partnership has established a voluntary standards program for local utilities that enhances biosolids management. Utilities that sign up for the program follow a rigorous code of best practices for managing and using biosolids. The program helps utilities go beyond minimum regulatory compliance, and optimize their operations to improve product quality and benefit the environment.

Funding for the National Biosolids Partnership provides participating wastewater utilities with technical assistance, best practice training, and guidance to fully implement an environmental management program for biosolids. The program also leverages additional local funding that is contributed by the participating utilities. Eighty

wastewater utilities in 32 states are currently participating in the program. The program has been very successful and is worthy of continued Federal investment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Duncan, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

John J. Duncan, Jr.
Chairman

Subcommittee on Water Resources
and Environment