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April 24, 2006

Co-Sponsor H.R. 4560 – the Clean Water Trust Act of 2005

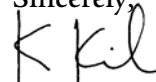
Dear Member of Congress:

As a nation, we are falling behind in our commitment to maintain our wastewater treatment systems. According to studies by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), and the Water Infrastructure Network (WIN), the country needs to spend \$12 billion a year, in addition to what we already spend annually, for at least 20 years in order to maintain the current level of water quality in our rivers, lakes and streams. **If we fail to make this infrastructure investment, EPA predicts that water pollution could get as bad as it was 35 years ago, before the Clean Water Act was passed by Congress.**

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) and other major national organizations are supporting legislation to address this national problem – the *Clean Water Trust Act of 2005*, H.R. 4560. The bill would create a dedicated, deficit-neutral, 5-year, Clean Water Trust Fund, similar to those that finance highways and airports. The Trust Fund would ensure the continuation of the historic federal financial contribution to supplement existing local and state revenue to address the backlog of clean water public works projects and help communities meet Clean Water Act unfunded mandates. The bill also would spur efficiencies in utility management, new technologies and research, and enhance fisheries. **Attached is a brief fact sheet that includes a list of national organizations that are supporting H.R. 4560.**

We hope you will support H.R. 4560 by becoming a co-sponsor of the *Clean Water Trust Act of 2005*. This important bill makes clean water a national priority and will ensure that families and businesses can depend on the quality of America's waters for recreation, industrial production, and continued economic growth.

To become a co-sponsor, please contact Jon Pawlow, Counsel, House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment at (202) 225-4360 or by e-mail at Jon.Pawlow@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,


Executive Director

Attachment