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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ken Kirk

May 22, 2006

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Chair, Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) commends your leadership and your continuing commitment to pass legislation to help the nation's publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) further secure their infrastructure and protect the environment and their surrounding communities.

NACWA has been working with the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee since shortly after September 11, 2001 to pass legislation that addresses security needs at wastewater treatment agencies. During the past four and a half years, most wastewater facilities have completed or soon will complete a vulnerability or security assessment, as noted in a recently released Government Accountability Office (GAO) report (GAO-06-390). The report also notes that further improvements at some systems may be limited by cost constraints.

S. 2781 represents an important step in acknowledging the commitment made by POTWs to both protect the environment and provide continuity of service to the American people. NACWA believes the *Wastewater Treatment Works Security Act of 2006* would provide much-needed assistance to wastewater facilities in their efforts to prepare for both man-made and natural disasters. NACWA is especially pleased that the *Wastewater Treatment Works Security Act of 2006* (S. 2781) includes as an eligible activity under the grant program voluntary mutual aid and emergency network preparedness efforts.

Again, thank you for your continued commitment to wastewater security and the infrastructure needs of our nation's communities. We look forward to working with you and the EPW Committee to enact into law and fully fund S. 2781.

Sincerely,



Ken Kirk
Executive Director