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**Ken Kirk**

September 28, 2011

Dear Members of Congress:

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) calls on Congress to include at least \$10 billion in direct investment in clean water infrastructure projects in legislation to spur job creation and reinvigorate our Nation's economy. Like investments in our transportation systems and schools, investment in clean water infrastructure is essential to economic growth and must be directly included in a package designed to revitalize our economy.

Modernizing and replacing the country's aging water infrastructure may be the single largest public works need that our Nation faces, and it will require a serious investment. An estimated \$300-\$500 billion funding gap exists between current and needed investment to ensure the continued viability of our Nation's clean and safe water infrastructure. Funding for clean water infrastructure would yield tremendous job creation and economic benefits:

- Leading economists estimate 28,500 construction, engineering and manufacturing jobs are created per \$1 billion investment in water and wastewater infrastructure;
- The U.S. Conference of Mayors estimates that every job created in water and wastewater infrastructure creates over three additional jobs in the local economy; and
- Over \$40 billion in documented, ready-to-go water and wastewater infrastructure projects exist across the Nation and, as Hurricane Irene recently made clear, these projects are critical to ensuring basic sanitation and drinking water service to communities from coast to coast.

Transportation, education and housing infrastructure are all set to receive direct funding in President Obama's American Jobs Act. Given water infrastructure investments' proven track record of creating jobs, clean water deserves similar direct funding as you work to advance a job creation proposal through Congress.

In addition to our funding concerns, NACWA warns against any proposal that would limit a tax-payer's ability to claim exemptions for investments in municipal bonds. This would actually drive up the cost of financing water and wastewater projects at the local level while leading to a likely decrease in project investment and economic growth overall — precisely the opposite intent of a jobs creation package.

NACWA believes it is essential that Congress include at least \$10 billion in direct funding for investment in clean water infrastructure projects as it crafts a jobs bill and help communities meet their clean water obligations as affordably and effectively as possible.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me or Hannah Mellman, NACWA's legislative manager, at 202-833-2672 should you need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Kirk". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Ken Kirk  
Executive Director