



May 20, 2009

Representative Lois Capps
1110 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Capps:

On behalf of the Water Utility Climate Alliance, a coalition of eight large water utilities delivering drinking water to 36 million Americans, I want to express my support for your proposed amendment to H.R. 2454 (the "American Clean Energy and Security Act") that would establish a grant program through which the nation's water utilities could compete for funding to design, plan, construct, and implement projects that help them adapt to the water supply challenges posed by climate change.

As you are aware, climate change is expected to lead to a host of challenges for American water systems, ranging from severe drought and melting snowpack that stresses water supplies to increased heavy precipitation events and rising sea levels that threaten water quality. However, H.R. 2454 as introduced includes no direct mechanism to help water systems adapt their operations to these challenges. The "Water System Adaptation Partnership" amendment would address this shortcoming by offering competitive grants to help water systems undertake water conservation and efficiency efforts, capital projects to develop water supplies or improve water quality, and utility-specific evaluations to estimate how climate change will impact their sustainability.

We hope subsequent amendments to H.R. 2454 will fund the Water System Adaptation Partnership program through a dedicated revenue stream derived from the sale of emissions allowances. Just as the legislation currently provides direct emissions allowances to fund domestic, international, and natural resources-focused adaptation programs, a similar set-aside of allowances would be of immense benefit in ensuring drinking water providers can maintain resiliency in the face of climate change.

The Water Utility Climate Alliance strongly supports inclusion of the Water System Adaptation Partnership amendment to the "American Clean Energy and Security Act." Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Ed Harrington
General Manager, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Chair, Water Utility Climate Alliance

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