

November xx, 2016

The Honorable
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Representative xxxxxx:

I want to express my support for Representative Bob Gibbs' bill, H.R. 6182, the Water Quality Improvement Act of 2016, which would codify EPA's Integrated Planning and Financial Capability initiatives, and I encourage you to add your name as a cosponsor to this important bill.

Local governments are at a crossroads when it comes to water and wastewater infrastructure. In total, we spend \$117 billion per year (\$320 million/day) to provide public water and wastewater services while Congress provides approximately \$2 billion per year, not as grants, but as loans that must be repaid with interest. This is not nearly enough federal assistance to maintain and replace our aging infrastructure and meet the numerous federal unfunded mandates that we face.

While we need more financial resources, we also need more common sense approaches. HR 6182 would allow local governments, who have households who are spending financially burdensome amounts on water and wastewater bills, to work with their state and EPA to implement comprehensive plans that sequence investments with local environmental and health priorities.

This bill would codify what EPA has issued in several policy memorandums and assure that it is a viable tool for local governments in the future. It is imperative that we spend our citizen's limited money resourcefully.

We hope you join Mr. Gibbs in supporting this much needed effort. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Sheahan of the Conference of Mayors staff at [202-861-6775](tel:202-861-6775) (jsheahan@usmayors.org).

Sincerely,