

February 22, 2018

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Booker and Senator Capito,

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) writes to express our support and appreciation for your leadership in sponsoring S. 2346, to establish an innovative water infrastructure workforce development program. This legislation would directly help address the concerns of many clean water agencies regarding workforce development, high rates of attrition from an aging workforce, and the need to create more job opportunities for the communities that clean water utilities serve. Currently there is no federal workforce development program aimed at the water sector.

Public clean water agencies across the nation, including many of NACWA's more than 300 utility members, face serious utility management challenges as significant percentages of their skilled workforce retire. Utilities are working proactively to address workforce needs, provide training and development opportunities, and collaborate and share expertise on a peer-to-peer basis around the country.

Unfortunately, this labor challenge comes at a time when the country's clean water infrastructure faces significant investment needs. The challenge is also coming at a time of change within the sector. Today, utility managers are no longer just focused on treating and discharging wastewater or managing stormwater. They are also looking for ways to optimize efficiency, recover valuable resources, and contribute to the overall health of watersheds and community water resource management. Utilities of the Future will require a workforce that is innovative and well-trained. Your legislation will help advance utility workforce initiatives underway, connect young workers to promising career paths, and help ensure clean and safe water services in communities around the country.

The federal government can play an important role supporting workforce development in the water utility sector. We strongly support the establishment of a competitive grant program for water workforce development and look forward to helping advance this important legislation. Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Adam Krantz
Chief Executive Officer