Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 25, 2022

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

We are writing in regard to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's (BIL) investments in water. This funding is critical to rebuilding and modernizing our nation's drinking and wastewater infrastructure, which will help to ensure that all Americans have access to clean and safe water. As you know, our water infrastructure is aging while at the same time facing growing challenges, including extreme weather events. Advanced water infrastructure technologies will play a key role in helping communities quickly and efficiently adapt to these challenges and changing conditions.

Leveraging the use of proven, digital, data-driven technology solutions can help ensure we maximize federal water investments, in addition to enhancing safety and security, reducing costs, mitigating the impact of climate change, addressing water scarcity, and improving resiliency. For example, the water sector has identified lack of data on the condition and functioning of water assets as a key factor that leads to poor resource prioritization and unexpected crises, and utilities that adopt advanced digital asset management tools are better equipped to address these issues.

We encourage the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to use opportunities in the BIL to accelerate the identification and deployment of advanced technologies to improve water infrastructure. For example, Section 50205 establishes a "Clean Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Program" at the EPA to address rising threats to clean water infrastructure from climate change. As the EPA stands up this program, we encourage you to consider incorporating the use of smart, digital water technologies into the grant criteria to achieve the program's goals. For example, digital water design tools can help communities mitigate flooding and drought conditions, reduce stress on water treatment systems, and improve water infrastructure resiliency.

Additionally, Sections 50112 and 50219 direct the EPA to conduct studies examining existing and emerging technologies that could enhance the treatment, monitoring, affordability, and safety of drinking water and wastewater systems. Section 50112 also directs the EPA to establish a competitive grant program to identify and deploy advanced drinking water technologies. As an example, smart water tools can provide real-time insights and predictive maintenance capabilities to better prioritize resources and proactively fix problems. As the EPA implements these

sections, we encourage the Agency to conduct robust outreach efforts and work with industry, non-profit, and research leaders in the smart water sector to make certain the Federal government can provide comprehensive guidance and best practices to communities about proven and emerging advanced technology solutions.

We look forward to collaborating with you as the EPA implements the BIL and urge the Agency to leverage advanced, smart technologies to create more cost-effective, productive, and sustainably managed water infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress