



January 8, 2008

Mr. Benjamin Grumbles  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Water  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

**Subject: National Water Program Strategy on Climate Change**

Dear Mr. Grumbles:

Issues related to global climate change have become the focus of national attention, leading to action in Congress and at various federal agencies. Under your leadership, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water has formed a National Water Program Climate Change Workgroup and is developing a national strategy on climate change. We urge you to issue the draft climate change strategy for public comment as soon as possible.

As representatives of the nation's drinking water and wastewater communities, we are committed to work together to help water quality professionals in their efforts to mitigate and reduce the impacts of global climate change. In early December, we convened a climate change forum at which leaders from the water and wastewater utility community gathered and discussed their climate change-related initiatives, current national policy and emerging legislation, as well as how water resource managers can plan for the challenges of global climate change. Water sector representatives from across the country described a variety of projects and efforts underway related to climate change, including water conservation, recycling and reuse, energy saving measures, and other cooperative initiatives among utilities and their communities. Jeff Peterson from your staff also participated in the forum and provided a very helpful perspective.

Water utility organizations recognize the importance of collaboration when facing this global issue. We urge you to release the National Water Program Strategy on Climate Change as soon as possible so that we can better coordinate with and support your efforts.

We look forward to meeting with you and the Climate Change Workgroup in the coming months to explore opportunities for future collaboration.

Sincerely,



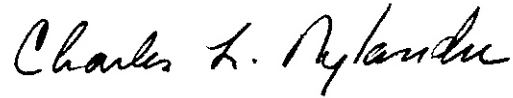
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Cc: Michael Shapiro, Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Jim Hanlon, Director, Office of Wastewater Management  
Jeff Peterson, Senior Policy Advisor