November 14, 2012

The Water Infrastructure Network (WIN), a coalition of the nation’s leading construction, engineering, municipal, public works, conservation, labor and manufacturing organizations, strongly supports your continued bipartisan work to address our nation’s water infrastructure funding crisis. The innovative financing pilot projects established in Title X of the draft Water Resources Development Act of 2012 (WRDA 2012), represent a thoughtful and timely approach to establishing and testing a new financing tool for our nation’s water and wastewater infrastructure. WIN and its Members are committed to working with you to secure broad bipartisan support for WRDA 2012.

WIN believes that the development of a “TIFIA – Like” program for water infrastructure may make sense as we look to leverage limited federal resources to address the dramatic short fall in water infrastructure funding --- projected by EPA, WIN and CBO to be in excess of $500 B over the next two decades. However, it is essential that the existing State Revolving Funds for water and wastewater construction not be cannibalized to finance the innovative finance projects envisioned in WRDA and that we continue to pursue long-term dedicated funding for water and wastewater infrastructure. WIN has testified before Congress and worked closely with your staff to outline the opportunities and limitations of a TIFIA Program for water infrastructure and we appreciate your efforts to incorporate WIN’s recommendations into Title X of the WRDA 2012.

Your continued leadership on water infrastructure funding and finance is greatly appreciated and WIN is committed to working with you to perfect and enact into law the innovative financing measures in the Water Resources Development Act of 2012.

Sincerely,

The WIN Executive Committee

American Council of Engineering Companies, American Public Works Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, Associated General Contractors of America, International Union of Operating Engineers, National Association Clean Water Agencies, National Rural Water Association, United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters