



THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

June 30, 2021

RE: Support McKinley Amendment #38 to preserve cost-benefit analysis in the development of drinking water standards

Dear Representative:

On behalf of organizations representing the nation’s municipal governments and drinking water systems, we write in strong support of Amendment #38 to the INVEST in America Act (H.R. 3684) offered by Rep. David McKinley. This amendment would maintain EPA’s ability to develop scientifically sound drinking water regulations that appropriately take both compliance costs and public health benefits into account.

Section 13201 of H.R. 3684 as reported out of the House Rules Committee would repeal section 1412(b)(6) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, a key provision that gives EPA the opportunity to ensure that the public health benefits of a new drinking water regulation are reasonably balanced with the compliance costs that water system ratepayers will incur. Without this provision, local governments and water systems – namely residents and ratepayers of all income levels – would face the burden of financing a community’s effort to comply with drinking water standards that may carry costs that far exceed their public health benefits. Particularly at a time when there is growing awareness of the financial challenges faced by the most vulnerable Americans, reducing EPA’s emphasis on developing science-based drinking water standards that maximize health risk reduction benefits at a justifiable cost would mark a step backward for equitable access to affordable drinking water service.

McKinley Amendment #38 would address this issue by simply removing the proposed Safe Drinking Water Act modifications from H.R. 3684. This would leave intact the framework of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments, which all of our organizations support. We therefore urge you to vote in favor of this amendment when it is put before the full House.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our staff: Tommy Holmes (AWWA) at tholmes@awwa.org; David Reynolds (ACWA) at dlreyns@sso.org; Dan Hartnett (AMWA) at hartnett@amwa.net; Adam Pugh (NACo) at apugh@naco.org; Rik Hull (NAWC) at rik@nawc.com; Carolyn Berndt (NLC) at berndt@nlc.org; Mike Keegan (NRWA) at keegan@ruralwater.org; Ian Lyle (NWRA) at ilyle@nwra.org; or Judy Sheahan (USCM) at jsheahan@usmayors.org.

Sincerely,

American Water Works Association
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
National Association of Water Companies
National Rural Water Association
The U.S. Conference of Mayors

Association of California Water Agencies
National Association of Counties
National League of Cities
National Water Resources Association