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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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May 14, 2019

Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and
Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and
Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for Protect Drinking Water from PFAS Act of 2019 (H.R. 2377)

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) writes to express its support for the Protect Drinking Water from PFAS Act of 2019 (H.R. 2377), a bill that would require the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address the level of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water.

Under H.R. 2377, the bill would amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and would require the EPA to publish a maximum contaminant level goal and promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation for total PFAS, which are man-made chemicals that may lead to adverse human health effects.

From 2013 to 2015, OCWD performed the voluntary testing for Orange County groundwater producers and provided the results to the EPA, California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and to the District's 19 groundwater producers. Five water agencies in OCWD's service area found detections of these compounds, per the EPA and SWRCB Division of Drinking Water (DDW) guidance, all water agencies in OCWD's service area have operated their water systems to serve water below the federal health advisory and state response level for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) through a combination of taking impacted wells out of service, using alternative sources and blending water sources.

We urge the committee to expediate passing this legislation that would address some of the uncertainty surrounding these contaminants and ensure timely and comprehensive protection for the drinking water of our constituents.

Honorable Frank Pallone and Honorable Greg Walden
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Again, we deeply appreciate your support of the legislation and your leadership to protect drinking water from hazardous substances for Orange County and the country. We look forward to assisting you as H.R. 2377 progresses through the committee and Congress. As the first public agency in California to receive certification to test for PFOA and PFOS, we hope you will look to us if you have any questions and/or if we may be of assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact Alicia Dunkin, Legislative Affairs Liaison, at adunkin@ocwd.com or 714-378-8232.

Sincerely,



Vicente Sarmiento, Esq.
President