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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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June 19, 2019

The Honorable John Barrasso
United States Senate
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support of the Senate Committee on Environment Public Works' mark-up of the substitute amendment to the PFAS Release Disclosure Act (S.1507)

Dear Senator Barrasso:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) is in support of the Committee on Environment Public Works' mark-up of the substitute amendment to the Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Release Disclosure Act (S. 1507). In light of the significant demand for action, we urge that this amendment be incorporated as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (S. 1790) as the Senate considers S. 1790. OCWD is a national leader in the treatment of safe drinking water supplies and currently is one of only three PFOS/PFOA certified testing laboratories in the nation.

S. 1507 would provide the vital authorities for appropriate actions by the federal government to help local communities ensure a safe and reliable water supply. Of specific note, the mandate to establish a federal Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) within two years of enactment will clarify for local water managers what level of treatment is necessary based upon scientific review. The authority for the federal government to provide assistance to research health threats is vital to ensure that any MCL that is proposed is grounded in the best available information and science. Last, we believe that the authority to provide grant funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund provides a promising approach. However, we would urge such grant assistance be increased beyond the \$100,000,000 annual authorized level to better reflect the needs throughout the nation to address both contaminants of emerging concern and PFAS.

The Committee's successful mark-up today of S. 1507 is an important step to ensuring communities, like those served by OCWD, have a safe and reliable water supply. In the coming weeks, we look forward to working with you to advance an effective response to the health threats from such contaminants.

Again, we support the Committee on Environment Public Works' mark-up of the substitute amendment to the PFAS Release Disclosure Act (S. 1507) and respectfully request that this amendment be incorporated as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (S. 1790). We appreciate your leadership to protect drinking water from hazardous substances for Orange County and the country.

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We look forward to assisting you as S. 1790 progresses through the Committee and Congress. As the first public agency in California to receive certification to test for PFAS, 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 if we may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,


Vicente Sarmiento, Esq.
President

- cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
- Senator Kamala Harris
- Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (CA-38)
- Congressman Gil Cisneros (CA-39)
- Congresswoman Katie Porter (CA-45)
- Congressman Jose Luis Correa (CA-46)
- Congressman Alan Lowenthal (CA-47)
- Congressman Harley Rouda (CA-48)
- Congressman Mike Levin (CA-49)