



March 28, 2025

The Honorable Lisa McClain
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin Mullin
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative McClain, Representative Mullin, Senator Merkley, & Senator Collins:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to applaud the bipartisan, bicameral reintroduction of the *Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety (WIPPEs) Act* (H.R.2269/S.1092). This bipartisan legislation takes a straightforward and reasonable approach to addressing the preventable problems stemming from the improper disposal of non-flushable wipes in the nation’s wastewater systems. Last Congress, the House voted on an overwhelming bipartisan basis to pass the legislation. We urge the same bipartisan support for the legislation this Congress.

Due to the lack of consistent and clear disposal packaging instructions, consumers often unwittingly flush these wipes down the toilet. At a national-level, wet wipes are responsible for \$441 million a year in additional operating costs at US clean water utilities.¹ Since these types of wipes are not designed to be flushed, they can clog and damage pipes, pumps, and treatment equipment, resulting in increased operation and maintenance costs for clean water utilities. The flushing of these wipes can also cause potential environmental harms, such as sewer overflow events.

The WIPPEs Act’s common sense “Do Not Flush” labeling requirement for non-flushable wipes packaging establishes a simple source management solution through consistent on-package consumer education. It is why this legislation

¹ NACWA. 2020. The Cost of Wipes On America’s Clean Water Utilities: An Estimate of Increased Utility Operating Costs. https://www.nacwa.org/docs/default-source/resources---public/govaff-3-cost_of_wipes-1.pdf?sfvrsn=b535fe61_2#

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continues to enjoy sustained endorsement by our organizations, which represent a broad cross-section of involved stakeholder groups. We believe the legislation will advance our mutually shared interest to protect public infrastructure and the environment by promoting responsible disposal habits.

Again, we applaud the introduction of H.R.2269/S.1092 and thank you for your continued leadership to develop commonsense and bipartisan policy solutions.

Sincerely,

American Public Works Association
American Rivers
Association of Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group
California Association of Sanitation Agencies
Center for Baby and Adult Hygiene Products
Consumer Healthcare Products Association
ISSA, the Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
National Rural Water Association
National Stewardship Action Council
Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies
Procter & Gamble
The Coalition for Clean Water
Washington Association of Sewer & Water Districts
Water Environment Federation
5Gyres