



May 21, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express support for the bipartisan *Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety (WIPPEs) Act* (S. 1092) and respectfully request that this letter be included in the May 21, 2025, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation markup's record. S. 1092 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. We urge the committee to favorably report out the WIPPEs Act.

Due to the lack of consistent and clear disposal packaging instructions, consumers often unwittingly flush these wipes down the toilet. At a national level, non-flushable 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#

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for the record and your continued leadership to develop commonsense and bipartisan policy solutions.

Sincerely,

American Cleaning Institute
American Public Works Association
American Rivers
American Society of Civil Engineers
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
Dude Wipes
ISSA, the Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
Kimberly-Clark
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
National Rural Water Association
National Stewardship Action Council
Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies
Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association
Personal Care Products Council
Procter & Gamble
Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies
Washington Association of Sewer & Water Districts
Washington Coalition for Clean Water
Water Environment Association of Texas
Water Environment Federation
5Gyres