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July 12, 2017

VIA EXPRESS MAIL AND EMAIL

The Honorable Ron Johnson
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
1233 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Pocan
1421 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Kind
1502 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gwen Moore
2252 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Sensenbrenner
2449 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Glenn Grothman
1217 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sean Duffy
2330 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Gallagher
1007 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: URGENT ACTION NEEDED REGARDING REGULATION OF WET WIPES

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To the Honorable Wisconsin Senators and Congressional Delegation:

We are writing on behalf of the Municipal Environmental Group – Wastewater Division (MEG), which is an association of almost 100 municipalities throughout the state of Wisconsin who own and operate wastewater treatment facilities.

Washington, D.C. is in the process of developing regulations that would require “Do-Not-Flush” labeling on products such as wet wipes and baby wipes and establishing dispersibility standards in the event such wipes are flushed. These regulations are critical for addressing the significant issues the disposal of wipes can cause to the systems of wastewater utilities. Such issues include clogged systems that can disrupt wastewater services and cause the overflow of untreated sewage. In addition, men and women who work for wastewater utilities are exposed to raw sewage when they must remove wipes to prevent or respond to such clogs, which is a serious health concern.

The District of Columbia is the first city in the nation to move forward with regulations on disposable wipes. The damage to the District of Columbia’s wastewater utility system that these regulations are attempting to address also occurs at wastewater utilities across Wisconsin. It is critically important that the District of Columbia be allowed to move forward with disposable wipes regulations to protect its infrastructure and its employees. It is also critically important that Congress send a message that it supports such regulations.

Wipes manufacturers are now attempting to add a rider to the appropriations bill that would prevent the District of Columbia from moving forward with these regulations regarding the disposal of wipes. We strongly urge you to reject this rider.

Adopting this rider would put Congress on record as *opposing* regulations that would require labeling of wipes and create dispersibility standards benefiting the District’s wastewater utility and thus its citizens. We strongly urge you to reject this rider and to support District of Columbia’s efforts to regulate wipes and protect its utility.

Sincerely,



MEG Wastewater Division
Paul G. Kent
Vanessa D. Wishart

PGK/VDW:mai