United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 2, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Democratic Leader Reid, Speaker Ryan, and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

We write to express our concern that an important Buy America provision for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) has been struck from the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) conference report to be considered by the House and Senate. This provision (Section 7117 of S. 2848) was approved by the Senate with broad bipartisan support, and we urge you to ensure that it is included in the final WRDA bill.

Section 7117 of the Senate bill would codify the Buy America procurement preference for American-made iron and steel products that has been applied to the DWSRF for many years through annual appropriations to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The language would ensure that the DWSRF is subject to the same Buy America policies permanently applied to the EPA's other federal-aid water infrastructure spending programs, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program.

Buy America is an important job-creating provision. If subject to the Buy America provisions, DWSRF-funded infrastructure projects will be required to use American iron and steel. As a result, companies will have incentives to invest in domestic manufacturing facilities, and U.S. taxpayer dollars will support American manufacturers.

Removing the Buy America provisions from the DWSRF will have the opposite effect. Without domestic content requirements, foreign companies will reap the advantages of U.S. taxpayer spending at the expense of taxpaying U.S. iron and steel producers and workers across the country. An opportunity to support and grow U.S. manufacturers will be squandered.

The American people spoke clearly in this past election that they want leaders who fight for the working class and who advance policies that create more jobs and grow the U.S. manufacturing

sector. We urge you to heed their voices in the WRDA negotiations and ensure the DWSRF Buy America provisions are incorporated in the final bill.

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Rob Portman
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator

Joe Manchin, III
United States Senator

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Christopher Murphy
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Jeff Merkley
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Al Franken
United States Senator

Patty Murray
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator