United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 25, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
S-221, Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman, Committee on Environment
and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Leader McConnell and Chairman Barrasso:

On April 6, 2017, we introduced the Made in America Water Infrastructure Act, S. 880. This legislation will require all projects financed by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to use American-made iron and steel. On Tuesday, April 18, 2017, while visiting Wisconsin, President Trump said he supports the legislation "100 percent."[1] Given the President's support, we believe it is time for the Senate to act on S. 880—beginning with consideration in the Environment and Public Works Committee.

The bill's provisions were included in the Water Resources and Development Act that passed the Senate 95-3 on September 15, 2016. However, Speaker Ryan and House Republican leadership stripped them from the bill that would eventually pass in to law. According to a Wall Street Journal report, the decision to remove the provision was made after Speaker Ryan's office came under intense lobbying pressure from Russian steel interests represented in Washington by former Ryan staff. [2]

Buy America policies, such as those included in this bill, are broadly popular and included in many federal programs already. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund is a federal-state partnership that acts as an infrastructure bank to help ensure safe drinking water for all 50 states and territories. Between 1997 and 2015, the DWSRF program provided more than $27.9 billion in low interest loans to more than 12,000 projects. These projects include: improving drinking water treatment; fixing or replacing old pipes; improving the source of the water supply; replacing or constructing finished water storage tanks; or any other infrastructure projects needed to protect public health.

---

[1] Zanona, Melanie. "Trump Says He Supports Dem 'Buy America' Bill." *TheHill*., 19 Apr. 2017.
[2] Mullins, Brody, and Kristina Peterson. "Bill's 'Buy America' Provision Sets Up Potential Clash for GOP, Donald Trump." *The Wall Street Journal*. Dow Jones & Company, 02 Dec. 2016.

Americans are tired of the status quo in Washington. We look forward to working with you to ensure that our nation's drinking water infrastructure is built with American materials by moving this legislation through the Senate.

Sincerely,

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

Al Franken
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator