



N A R U C  
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

September 15, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Investment in water and wastewater infrastructure**

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Reid:

Every community, every person, every business, every worker relies on it. Agriculture, energy, manufacturing, and tourism—more than one fifth of our nation’s economic output depends on water. Water is the most important thing in our daily lives—and most people don’t need to think twice about it.

But our nation’s water and wastewater infrastructure is at risk. Every two minutes, there is a water main break somewhere in America. Many cities are built on top of drinking water and wastewater systems that are more than a century old. The American Society for Civil Engineers graded our nation’s water systems a D.

NARUC is a bipartisan organization that represents the public service commissions in all 50 States and U.S. territories that regulate the utilities that provide essential services such as water, energy, telecommunications, and transportation. As such, our members work closely with water utilities grappling with the immense task of repairing and replacing aging infrastructure while keeping rates affordable, especially for vulnerable populations.

In communities across America, this “invisible crisis” is disrupting daily lives, threatening jobs and businesses, and putting our communities’ health and prosperity at risk. Families from Flint, Michigan, to the Central Valley of California have experienced the devastating impacts of living—even a day—without water. We can’t wait any longer to act.

Now is the time for America to commit to a future where everyone can count on reliable and safe water service—now, and for future generations. It is time to:

- **Increase public and private investment in water infrastructure; and**
- **Ensure that water is affordable, reliable, and accessible to all communities and businesses.**

The cost to replace, upgrade and repair our national water infrastructure will be expensive and cannot fall solely on the ratepayers. Action has been delayed too long, as the invisible crisis

of aging water systems has increased. September 15, 2016, has been designated *Imagine a day without water* day to raise national awareness of the value of this vital resource. A day without water is nothing short of a crisis. On this day of awareness, we call on Congress and the Administration to prioritize investment in water infrastructure and water resources.

NARUC is committed to working with members of Congress, the Administration, industry, and other stakeholders to ensure that all communities have access to reliable and safe water. If you have any questions please contact NARUC's Legislative Director – Water, Brian O'Hara, at 202-898-2205, [bohara@naruc.org](mailto:bohara@naruc.org), or General Counsel, Brad Ramsay, at 202-898-2207, [jramsay@naruc.org](mailto:jramsay@naruc.org).

Sincerely,

Travis Kavulla of Montana  
NARUC President

Alaina C. Burtenshaw of Nevada  
Chair, NARUC Committee on Water