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March 15, 2017

The Honorable John Shimkus
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment
House Energy & Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment
House Energy & Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Drinking Water Infrastructure Hearing

Dear Chairman Shimkus and Ranking Member Tonko,

On behalf of the National Ground Water Association's (NGWA) thousands of members across the United States, we commend the attention your subcommittee is giving our nation's drinking water infrastructure during its March 16 hearing, "*Reinvestment and Rehabilitation of Our Nation's Safe Drinking Water Delivery Systems.*" NGWA is the largest organization of groundwater professionals in the world, whose mission is to promote the responsible protection, management and use of groundwater.

As Congress considers a major infrastructure bill, NGWA stands ready as a resource to help ensure groundwater remains a safe and reliable source of drinking water for over 40% of Americans. Nearly 20 billion gallons of groundwater are used each day to satisfy the demands of public water systems and individual, household wells.

While much of the attention on drinking water needs is paid to large systems, we urge you during and beyond this hearing to also focus on the safety and reliability of water supplies in rural areas. The needs of small communities are often overlooked or are treated with a one-size-fits-all approach. Dedicated support to rural communities must be considered in any effort to rehabilitate our nation's drinking water infrastructure.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please contact Lauren Schapker, NGWA's Government Affairs Director, at lschapker@ngwa.org or 202.888.9151 with questions or if NGWA can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Kevin McCray, CAE
Chief Executive Officer
National Ground Water Association

cc: Members, House Committee on Energy & Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment