



Tuesday, May 25, 2021

The Honorable Paul Tonko  
Chairman  
House Energy & Commerce Committee  
Subcommittee on Environment & Climate Change.  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David McKinley  
Ranking Member  
House Energy & Commerce Committee  
Subcommittee on Environment & Climate Change  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change  
Hearing on “The CLEAN Future Act and Drinking Water: Legislation to Ensure Drinking Water is Safe and Clean.”

Letter for the Record

On behalf of the Water Design-Build Council (WDBC), we would like to express our strong support for your efforts to increase investment in our nation’s drinking water infrastructure. For too long our drinking water and wastewater management systems have been neglected, leaving communities behind to shoulder the burden of unsafe and decaying systems. We believe that now is the time to reinvest in building resilient projects, investing in the health of our communities and creating jobs.

The Water Design-Build Council (WDBC) is a member-driven organization focused on promoting best practices of collaborative-delivery methods encompassing engineering, design, and construction of water and wastewater utility projects. WDBC membership includes some of the largest firms in the water project delivery space, with company footprints in every state.

As Congress advances legislation to improve U.S. drinking and wastewater facilities and infrastructure, we believe promoting a suite of strategic contracting options, including collaborative project delivery, will help states, localities, and industries execute critical infrastructure projects in an efficient and effective manner. Collaborative project delivery – which includes design-build – should be encouraged for federally funded water infrastructure projects.

The collaborative-delivery approach streamlines the planning, design, and construction of major infrastructure projects and typically results in faster project starts and completion, clearer staffing needs, cost savings, reduced risk, innovative designs, and project continuity. This process brings together the stakeholders – owners, architects, planners, engineers, and construction personnel – earlier in the process, allowing for integrated planning and delivery by maintaining connectivity throughout while reducing the cost and delays to federal, state, and local governments.

While collaborative delivery has been widely adopted in other sectors, such as transportation and defense construction, it has been inconsistently adopted for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency federally funded drinking and wastewater projects. Congress should encourage and promote the use of collaborative-delivery methods in such projects as they reauthorize various water programs.

We commend your work on advancing legislation to address our nation's aging drinking water infrastructure and look forward to working with you on this issue. Collaborative-delivery methods are a great way to get these projects off the ground and we hope you will include language that promotes its usage in this legislation.

Thank you.



Mike Watson, PE  
President



Mark Alpert, PE, FDBIA  
Executive Director

