

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 11, 2001

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to bring to your attention two important funding initiatives that are critical in protecting and preparing our Nation's drinking water supply against potential disruption of water service and/or the biological, chemical, or radiological contamination of drinking water supplies.

It is absolutely vital that our Nation's water supply systems conduct vulnerability assessments and begin revising and updating emergency response plans to address intentional acts of terrorism. It is essential that we quickly implement improved tools to protect water supply systems in the wake of the tragedy of September 11th.

From briefings that we have received and other information that we have reviewed, it is our understanding that new physical and cyber vulnerability assessment tools may be available for implementation very shortly. We need to act quickly to ensure that these tools are used to conduct new assessments in order to further protect the drinking water that our citizens depend on each and every day.

In this regard, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies has estimated that \$46 million will be needed to conduct physical vulnerability assessments and \$35 million will be needed to enhance and update emergency response plans of our Nation's large water systems. These large water systems, each serving greater than 100,000 persons, provide service to 116 million Americans.

Cost estimates for the 400 next largest water systems, serving between 50,000 and 100,000 people, are \$48 million for physical vulnerability assessments and \$20 million to update emergency response plans. Estimates are not currently available for all cyber security efforts or for systems smaller than 50,000, however, additional funding may be necessary to achieve our goal of protecting all Americans from the threats posed by intentional acts of terrorism. Therefore, efforts must be made on all levels to increase the physical and cyber security of drinking water supply systems and their ability to respond in emergency situations.

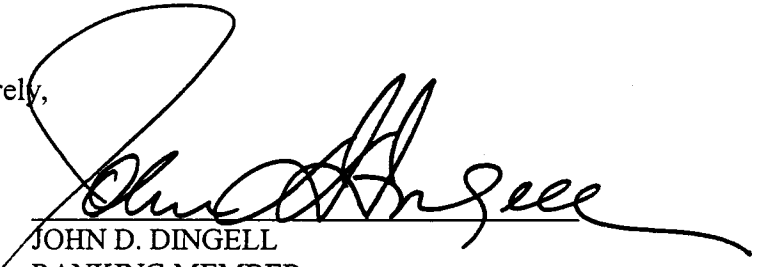
We believe you should act quickly to fund vulnerability and emergency response efforts out of the \$40 billion emergency supplemental approved last month by Congress using EPA's existing statutory authority to provide emergency assistance. It is possible that with proper technical support and funding, some water supply systems could conduct vulnerability assessments and begin revision of emergency response plans this calendar year.

We look forward to working closely with you on these and other matters concerning our Nation's water supply system.

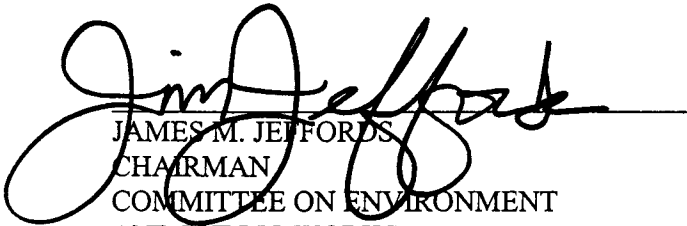
Sincerely,



W.J. "BILLY" TAUZIN
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



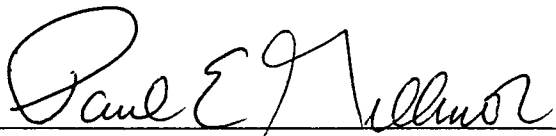
JOHN D. DINGELL
RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



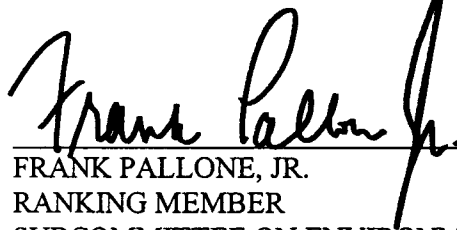
JAMES M. JEFFORDS
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND PUBLIC WORKS
UNITED STATES SENATE



BOB SMITH
RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND PUBLIC WORKS
UNITED STATES SENATE



PAUL E. GILLMOR
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



FRANK PALLONE, JR.
RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



BOB GRAHAM
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES,
WILDLIFE, AND WATER
UNITED STATES SENATE



MIKE D. CRAPO
RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES,
WILDLIFE AND WATER
UNITED STATES SENATE