

January XX, 2026

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support Robust Funding for EPA WaterSense Program

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members of the Senate and House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies,

The undersigned organizations write to express our strong support for full funding in Fiscal Year 2027 for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense® program. WaterSense is a highly successful, voluntary public-private partnership that helps American consumers save water, energy, and money while encouraging innovation, consistency, and performance in the plumbing and irrigation marketplace.

Since its inception, WaterSense has helped Americans save an estimated 9.9 trillion gallons of water and more than \$245 billion in water and energy bills, delivering measurable benefits to households, businesses, and communities across the country. These savings are particularly important as families face rising utility costs and communities confront growing water supply challenges.

WaterSense makes it easy for consumers to choose water-efficient products and services by providing a trusted, nationally recognized label backed by independent third-party testing and certification. Consumers can choose from more than 46,000 WaterSense-labeled products, available at a wide range of price points, with little to no cost difference compared to non-labeled alternatives. Manufacturers have invested millions of dollars to design products that meet WaterSense efficiency and performance criteria, giving consumers confidence that labeled products deliver both water savings and high performance.

Importantly, WaterSense is not duplicated by any other public or private program. It has become the primary reference point for water efficiency across the country, helping to avoid a costly and fragmented patchwork of state and local efficiency requirements. While 18 states and dozens of cities have adopted plumbing efficiency regulations that exceed federal minimum standards, many have chosen to reference WaterSense specifications rather than develop unique requirements—promoting national consistency, market certainty, and compliance efficiency for manufacturers, retailers, and builders.

WaterSense also plays a critical role in supporting water utilities and local governments by helping them defer or avoid expensive water and wastewater infrastructure investments that are ultimately borne by ratepayers. For example, Seattle Public Utilities has reported that approximately \$75 million in conservation and efficiency investments helped avoid more than \$800 million in new water supply costs. These savings translate directly into more affordable water services for consumers and businesses.

By reducing per-capita water demand, WaterSense supports responsible real estate development, population growth, and economic expansion—particularly in water-stressed regions. In Arizona, for example, state law requires new developments to demonstrate a 100-year assured water supply. Cities such as Phoenix have been able to grow substantially while holding water use nearly flat, in part due to widespread adoption of water-efficient fixtures and appliances promoted through programs like WaterSense.

WaterSense products also provide important benefits for the roughly 20 percent of American households that rely on onsite wastewater systems. Homes equipped with WaterSense-labeled fixtures send less water down the drain, reducing the risk of system overloading and failure. Lower flows also allow for smaller, more affordable onsite systems, reducing installation and replacement costs for homeowners.

As Congress considers Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations, we respectfully urge you to ensure that EPA's WaterSense program receives full and stable funding so that it can continue delivering these proven benefits to consumers, utilities, manufacturers, and communities nationwide.

Thank you for your leadership and continued support for programs that strengthen water affordability, efficiency, resilience, and economic growth.

Sincerely,

[NAMES OF ORGANIZATIONS]