

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 26, 2010

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Feinstein and Ranking Member Alexander,

We are writing to thank you for your support for the National Rural Water Association's (NRWA) rural and small communities training, technical assistance and source water/groundwater protection programs and to request that you provide \$16.8 million for these initiatives in the FY2011 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

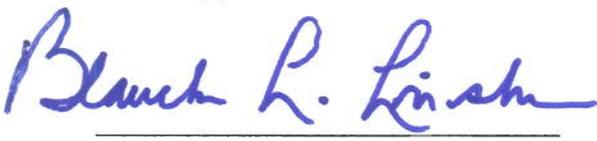
Small communities across the country depend on these unique rural water initiatives to protect their drinking water quality and to comply with numerous EPA environmental requirements. The main source of assistance for compliance with the more than 80 EPA drinking water regulations (including arsenic, radon, operator certification requirements, disinfection byproducts, stringent waste water permits, and ground water treatment) in our rural communities has been and will continue to be their state rural water associations.

As the Subcommittee analyzes competing requests for EPA funding priorities, small and rural communities urge the Subcommittee to compare the documented results and accomplishments of rural water's initiatives with those of other environmental protection programs. These accomplishments are documented in the National Rural Water Association Annual Report to Congress [www.ruralwater.org/report].

We certify that neither we nor our immediate family have a pecuniary interest in the congressionally directed spending item that we have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. We further certify that we have posted a description of this request on our official websites, along with the accompanying justification.

We appreciate your kind support that has made this unique and effective approach to environmental protection available to all of our small and rural communities.

Sincerely,




John Barrasso

Kevin Winter

Maria Sanchez

Mark

Jon Hill

Paul Beysch

Kirsten E. Hillibrand

Patrick Leahy

Michael B. Eiji

Holand W. Burris

Bob Carey, Jr.

Chuck Grassley

Kat Roberts

Von Voase

Jim Johnson

Rebecca Stenow

Mary Gendrin

Byron G. Dorgan

Mark Udall

Chris Sch

Dirk Duder

Amy Klobuchar

Robert Menendez

Kent Conrad

Jane Harman

Shirley

My Baines

Di Vitter

Sherrill Brown

Jeff Bond

Carl Levin

J. Webb

John F. Kerry

Susan Collins

Chris Dodd

Mark F. B. A

Barack Sanders

Th. W. J.

Mike Crapo

Mark R. Warner

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Kay R. Hagan
