

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 11, 2012

Ms. Nancy Stoner  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, D.C.  
Attn: Office of Water  
CCR Retrospective Review

Dear Ms. Stoner:

We are writing today to express our support for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) draft report on Consumer Confidence Report Electronic Delivery Options and Considerations. Over the past two years, consumer water agencies in our district have come to us explaining the benefits of electronic distribution of the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). When the final guidelines are implemented, water agencies will finally have the flexibility to adopt electronic CCR distribution, with a potential annual savings of around \$20 million nationally.

While all the electronic delivery options outlined in the draft report could increase consumer access to CCRs, it is particularly important that the EPA's final guidance permits community water systems to fulfill the mailing requirement by printing a direct link to an online CCR on bills, postcards, or electronic communication sent directly to customers. Every year approximately 53,000 water systems are required to produce a CCR and this method, which is consistent with legislation pending before the House and Senate, is best suited to reduce paper, printing, and postage costs associated with mailing the entire CCR.

Electronic distribution of the CCR is crucial, but consumer water agencies know that while the majority of the people in the United States have access to computers, there will still be consumers within their distribution area that will need the full report accessible and provided to them in a traditional manner. That is why the final guidance should allow individual communities the flexibility to decide how to implement electronic CCR communication. The ability to choose from a wide variety of options will ensure that the public's access to CCR data is not reduced whether the data is accessed online or through a hard-copy version.

It is also important to note that the EPA's adoption of these electronic communication methods will not impact existing regulatory requirements that water systems make a "good faith effort" to provide CCRs to customers who do not receive or pay water bills. Currently, state primacy agencies recommend communication methods that utilities may undertake to provide CCR information to these unbilled customers, including renters and students living in dorms. These new guidelines will not change their notification requirements; rather they will simply increase the efficiency in communicating CCRs to billed customers and benefit all members of the community by increasing public awareness and access to CCRs on utility websites.

We look forward to the finalized guidelines for electronic CCR distribution and hope that it will continue to reflect the bipartisan legislation currently before the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,



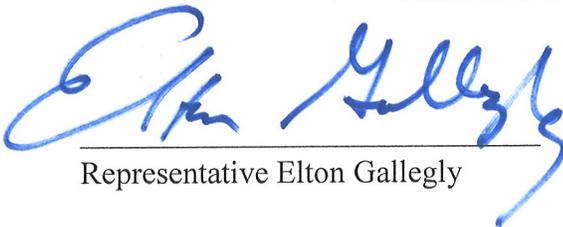
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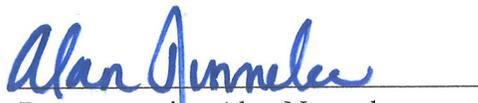
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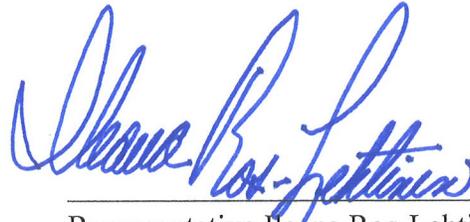
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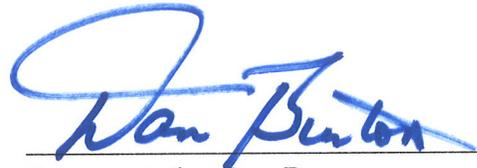
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