

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 1, 2012

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

Dear Ms. Stoner:

As the sponsors of legislation in the House of Representatives and the Senate that would allow the electronic distribution of Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR), we would first like to take this opportunity to commend the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the draft report on Consumer Confidence Report Electronic Delivery Options and Considerations. We appreciate that in publishing these draft guidelines the agency listened to the Members of Congress and the community water systems that have requested this flexibility in delivery methods.

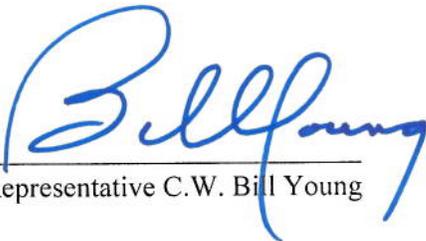
When the Mayors' Council of Pinellas County first brought this issue to the attention of Representative Young's office, the benefits of electronic distribution of the CCR were immediately apparent. The cost of mailing these reports is over \$60,000 per year for his local community water systems. Similarly, this regulatory flexibility would save dozens of Pennsylvania counties and municipalities a combined hundreds of thousands of dollars each year, with an estimated nationwide savings of around \$20 million. Enabling electronic distribution will save local governments money at a time in which their budgets are already strained.

We are hopeful that the current draft proposal to permit community water systems to fulfill the mailing requirement by printing a direct link to an online CCR on bills, postcards, or through electronic communications sent directly to customers will be adopted by the agency. In our opinion, this option is best suited to significantly reduce paper, printing, and postage costs associated with mailing entire CCRs, while also opening opportunities for water systems to provide additional water quality information to consumers via the Internet. With more and more consumers using the Internet to pay their bills, collect information and communicate with each other, it is a logical step to grant community water systems the flexibility to place this report online and distribute it to customers electronically. Other government agencies, including the Social Security Administration, are already working to stop the mailing of yearly reports and permitting this electronic distribution will allow our community water systems to use their limited resources to ensure their customer's drinking water remains clean, while still informing them about what is in the water they use in their homes and businesses.

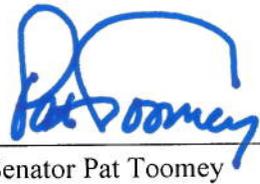
In addition, it is important that the EPA grant community water systems the flexibility to decide how to implement electronic CCRs. As recognized in the draft report, each community water system has different considerations for what delivery method will work best for their customers and system. This flexibility will allow community water systems to choose methods that work best for their system in order to increase the efficiency in communicating CCRs to billed customers, while also benefiting all members of the community by increasing public awareness of CCRs on utility websites.

In working toward the final methods for electronic delivery, we hope that it will continue to reflect the bipartisan legislation currently before the 112th Congress. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may answer any questions or be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,



Representative C.W. Bill Young



Senator Pat Toomey