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February 5, 2016

Craig W. Butler, Director
Ohio EPA - Director's Office
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Re: Proposed Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Improvements

Dear Director Butler:

I am writing on behalf of the Association of Ohio Metropolitan Wastewater Agencies ("AOMWA") to express support for the legislative changes Ohio EPA is proposing to the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund ("WPCLF") in Ohio Revised Code 6111.036 which will align the state law with the federal Water Resources Reform and Development Act ("WRRDA"). AOMWA is a not-for-profit trade association that represents the interests of public wastewater agencies across the state of Ohio, serving more than 4 million Ohioans and successfully treating more than 300 billion gallons of wastewater each year. AOMWA members include Akron, Butler County, Canton, City of Hamilton, Columbus, Dayton, City of Fairfield, Hamilton County, Lancaster, Lima, Marysville, Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Portsmouth, Springfield, Toledo and Warren.

As such, our members often utilize financial assistance made available through the WPCLF for necessary wastewater infrastructure improvements. AOMWA understands that the specific changes being proposed by Ohio EPA will enable communities that meet certain qualifying criteria to receive up to 30-year loans for such improvements. The WRRDA-related changes will also expand loan funding eligibility to more projects, including improving storm water management, water conservation and efficiency, watershed projects, energy reduction at wastewater plants and measures to increase water infrastructure security.

We also understand that the Agency is proposing changes that will allow communities the option of working with Ohio EPA to extend and tailor their WPCLF repayments to better match with the useful life of the wastewater facilities they construct and financial capabilities of each community.

These proposed legislative changes to the WPCLF will provide more flexible financing options that will benefit Ohio communities such as those represented by AOMWA. Moreover, these changes come at an important time, as we all balance the need for significant

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infrastructure improvements with common sense repayment options that work for our rate payers and lead to significant, and possibly accelerated, environmental improvements.

Our members have and will continue to work with the WPCLF program to secure funding for wastewater infrastructure projects. As such, AOMWA supports Ohio EPA's efforts to streamline the WPCLF program and align it with the federal WRRDA. Accordingly, please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything AOMWA or its members can do to assist Ohio EPA with these efforts.

Sincerely,



Brian Gresser, P.E.
President, AOMWA

cc: (via e-mail)
Jerry Rouch, Ohio EPA - DEFA
Guy Jamesson, AOMWA / City of Columbus
Bob Ashton, AOMWA / City of Columbus
Andrew Etter, Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP

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