



N A R U C
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

March 15, 2010

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
2314 Rayburn HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
2112 Rayburn HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James P. Moran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
2314 Rayburn HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
2112 Rayburn HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Obey, Moran and Ranking Members Lewis, Simpson:

On behalf of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), I am writing to request support for continued funding of \$5 million in the FY2011 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for the Water Research Foundation (the Foundation). NARUC represents the utility commissions in each of your States that have oversight responsibilities over all the critical utility infrastructures - telecommunications, energy, and water. Our members set the rates and terms for these essential utility services.

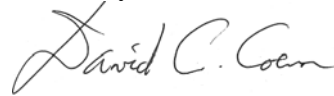
The Foundation represents 80 percent of the drinking water supply in the United States. Research at the Foundation has focused on the most pressing drinking water issues. Those issues include the impacts of pharmaceutical/EDCs in water, the uncertainties associated with climate change events, the remediation of quagga and zebra mussels, drought response, desalination, wastewater reuse, preparing for natural disasters, replacing aging drinking water systems, increased energy efficiencies, and treating water contaminants. This research is vital so that we can find solutions to protect our drinking water supply.

This research funding has been a significant benefit to NARUC as the findings are disseminated to those charged with supplying our water and protecting the public health. NARUC and its member commissions rely on access to such research in order to ensure that utilities address drinking water quality and water management issues in a timely and cost effective manner.

Since 1983, the Foundation has received federal funding through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science and Technology account. This research is authorized by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Foundation contributed \$10 million of its members' funds toward water-related research and sponsored over \$22 million in research around the world.

Once again, I urge you to request \$5 million for the Water Research Foundation in the Fiscal Year 2011 Interior Appropriations bill so the Foundation may continue its research and collaboration on issues that are critical to our future water supply. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Brian O'Hara, NARUC's Legislative Director for Telecommunications and Water issues at bohara@naruc.org or 202-898-2205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David C. Coen".

David C. Coen
NARUC President