



For more information, contact:
Dawn Kristof Champney
Phone: 703-444-1777
URL: www.wwema.org
E-mail: dawn@wwema.org

December 1, 2011

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WWEMA Decries Democrats
Latest Jobs Creation Measure**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association (WWEMA) was deeply disturbed by the latest proposal of the minority leadership in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to instill more stringent Buy American provision on all infrastructure projects, including those funded by Clean Water State Revolving Funds. H.R. 3533, the Invest in American Jobs Act of 2011, would require that all steel, iron and manufactured goods for infrastructure projects financed with federal money come from domestic sources, consistent with international trade agreements, and would subject any waiver to a 30-day public review process and employment impact analysis.

“It is amazing that the sponsors of this bill have ignored the negative consequences that resulted when the same protectionist measures were imposed on municipal water and wastewater projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, including project delays, price escalations, administrative burdens, reduced competition even among U.S. companies, and retaliation from trading partners, further hampering the ability of U.S. companies to compete effectively in markets domestic and abroad,” stated WWEMA President Dawn Kristof Champney. “The belief by some legislators that the international trade agreement provision allows U.S. companies to continue sourcing materials and components from our most favored trading partners, offering the best, most affordable technology to our municipal customers, is a dangerous misconception,” she added, noting that these agreements do not cover sub-federal entities like local governments who manage most of the nation’s water and wastewater infrastructure. “There is a major difference between raw materials and complex technologies. This action could dramatically set our industry back if U.S. companies are unable to utilize their international supply chains to provide the most innovative, cost-effective technologies to meet our nation’s enormous infrastructure challenges,” she stated.

###

Since 1908, WWEMA has informed, educated and provided leadership on the issues that shape the future of the water and wastewater industry. Its members supply the most sophisticated leading products and technology, offering solutions to every water-related environmental problem and need facing today’s society.