



May 16, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chair  
The Honorable David Vitter, Ranking Member  
Environment and Public Works Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster, Chair  
The Honorable Nick Rahall, Ranking Member  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Boxer and Vitter and Reps. Shuster and Rahall:

The Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association (WWEMA) applauds your efforts on the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA). We remain adamantly opposed, however, to the American Iron and Steel language that has been placed on both the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (Sec. 5004) and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (Sec. 5035) in this legislation.

This language creates a monopoly for a select few companies; restricts fair and open competition among U.S. manufacturers; creates regulatory burdens on municipalities, states, and industry; restricts market growth; impedes technology advancement; and puts many U.S. companies at risk of going out of business. It also reduces our competitiveness in the global marketplace by creating new barriers to international trade. How can we expect and demand unrestricted trade abroad when we deny and restrict opportunities for our trading partners here in the U.S.?

While there is much to be proud of in the WRRDA bill, the inclusion of the American Iron and Steel language will negate many of the benefits, increase project costs, and ultimately hurt many U.S. businesses. WWEMA's position has been and will continue to be that open competition and unrestricted free trade builds a strong America. We welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns with you.

Sincerely,

Vanessa M. Leiby  
Executive Director, WWEMA

*WWEMA represents both small and large U.S. manufacturing companies providing environmental solutions to the drinking water and wastewater market.*