

## EPA NATIONAL DRINKING WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL

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December 19, 2008

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Mr. Stephen L. Johnson

Administrator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington D.C. 20460

As Chairman of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC), I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the entire Council to say how much we enjoyed our meeting on November 19-21, 2008 in Washington, D.C.

In particular, the presentations we heard explaining EPA's Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative were particularly relevant. While each of us, as members of NDWAC, understand the importance of developing and maintaining drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, the presentations we heard at the meeting put in perspective the broad vision of EPA and the commitment of a very talented team of staff working diligently to implement programs that will make a difference to large and small communities across America.

In order to achieve the goals of the Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative, we also understand that it is incumbent on each and every one of us to provide information and to educate our citizens on the value and importance that sustainable infrastructure plays in stabilizing our communities, maintaining a vibrant economy, ensuring our national security, and improving our quality of life.

Administrator Johnson, the tools that are being developed under this initiative, including those supporting Effective Utility Management, Energy Management, Asset Management for small systems through the Check Up Program for Small Systems (CUPSS), the WaterSense program, Green Infrastructure, and

Full Cost Pricing, are particularly important to efforts needed to protect our nation's health and water quality.

We as a Council want to take this opportunity to thank you and Assistant Administrator Benjamin Grumbles for outlining a vision for sustaining our nation's water infrastructure. It is obvious that your team of EPA staff is talented and committed to the implementation of this very important initiative. We also stand ready to assist EPA in providing sustainable infrastructure for America.

Thank you again for your leadership. If you have any questions, please contact Veronica Blette, Designated Federal Officer for the NDWAC, at (202) 564-4094.

Sincerely,

Gregg Grunenfelder

Chair

National Drinking Water Advisory Council

cc: Benjamin H. Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for Water Cynthia C. Dougherty, Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water Jim Hanlon, Director, Office of Wastewater Management