



April 4, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express support for the bipartisan *Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety (WIPPEES) Act* (H.R.2269) and respectfully request that this letter be included in the April 8, 2025, Committee on Energy and Commerce markup's record. H.R. 2269 takes a straightforward and reasonable approach to addressing the preventable problems stemming from the improper disposal of non-flushable wipes in the nation's wastewater systems. Last Congress, the committee reported out the legislation on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis. We urge the same bipartisan support for H.R. 2269.

Due to the lack of consistent and clear disposal packaging instructions, consumers often unwittingly flush these wipes down the toilet. At a national-level, wet wipes are responsible for \$441 million a year in additional operating costs at US clean water utilities.¹ Since these types of wipes are not designed to be flushed, they can clog and damage pipes, pumps, and treatment equipment, resulting in increased operation and maintenance costs for clean water utilities. The flushing of these wipes can also cause potential environmental harms, such as sewer overflow events.

The WIPPEES Act's common sense "Do Not Flush" labeling requirement for non-flushable wipes packaging establishes a simple source management solution through consistent on-package consumer education. It is why this legislation continues to enjoy sustained endorsement by our organizations, which represent a broad cross-section of involved

¹ NACWA. 2020. The Cost of Wipes On America's Clean Water Utilities: An Estimate of Increased Utility Operating Costs. https://www.nacwa.org/docs/default-source/resources---public/govaff-3-cost_of_wipes-1.pdf?sfvrsn=b535fe61_2#

stakeholder groups. We believe the legislation will advance our mutually shared interest to protect public infrastructure and the environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for the record and your continued leadership to develop commonsense and bipartisan policy solutions.

Sincerely,

American Public Works Association
American Rivers
American Society of Civil Engineers
Association of Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group
California Association of Sanitation Agencies
Center for Baby and Adult Hygiene Products
Consumer Healthcare Products Association
Dude Wipes
ISSA, the Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
Kimberly-Clark
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
National Rural Water Association
National Stewardship Action Council
Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies
Personal Care Products Council
Procter & Gamble
The Coalition for Clean Water
Washington Association of Sewer & Water Districts
Water Environment Federation
5Gyres