

### **Delta Counties Coalition**

Contra Costa County · Sacramento County · San Joaquin County · Solano County · Yolo County

*"Working together on water and Delta issues"*

October 1, 2020

The Honorable John Garamendi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2368 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Garamendi:

On behalf of the Delta Counties Coalition, which works to protect and improve the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta Watershed, the largest estuary on the west coast of the Americas, we write to express our support for your legislation, the *WIFIA Improvement Act* (H.R. 8217). This important bill would amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (WIFIA) to provide a new maximum 55-year loan term for WIFIA financing.

As you know, WIFIA loans generate significant annual debt service savings of 20 percent or more for borrowers constructing critically important water supply, wastewater treatment, drought resiliency and water quality improvement projects. The legislation's establishment of a longer loan repayment term (up to 55 years) will increase these annual debt service – and ratepayer – savings even more. The bill could cut annual debt service costs by as much as an additional 40 percent in comparison to current WIFIA financing, which could dramatically accelerate non-federal investments in water supply reliability and drainage infrastructure to improve the resiliency of the Delta economy and our communities.

We also greatly appreciate that the bill clarifies that WIFIA loans can be used for the repair, replacement, and rehabilitation of transferred works that were originally constructed by a federal agency but are continually operated, maintained, and replaced by a local non-federal agency under a legally binding contract. Without this clarification, transferred works would not be eligible for WIFIA loans, increasing the financial burden on the local non-federal agency for replacement and rehabilitation projects and further delaying important water efficiency upgrades.

Clearly, H.R. 8217 will greatly enhance the benefits of long-term, low-cost WIFIA financing and help accelerate work on critically needed infrastructure projects in our

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region, State and nationwide. Thank you for your leadership and your work on this important piece of legislation.

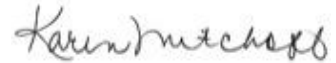
Sincerely,



Don Nottoli  
Supervisor, Sacramento County



Skip Thomson  
Supervisor, Solano County



Karen Mitchoff  
Supervisor, Contra Costa  
County



Oscar Villegas  
Supervisor, Yolo County



Chuck Winn  
Supervisor, San Joaquin  
County

cc: House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Delta Congressional Delegation