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October 29, 2009
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
235 Cannon House of Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

I am writing to urge you to move the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act (HR 2868), which now includes language addressing security at drinking water and wastewater facilities, to the floor for a vote as soon as possible. The committees with an interest in chemical security at facilities across the nation have worked diligently to craft a comprehensive package that provides an appropriate and sensible approach to closing the existing regulatory gap in the current regulatory framework by leaving EPA as the lead regulatory authority over the water sector.

Establishing a single lead agency for security over substances of concern from intentional incidents or natural disasters at drinking water and wastewater facilities will promote consistent and efficient implementation of chemical security across the water sector while simultaneously ensuring continued protection of public health and the environment. Moreover, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a long established and active water security program that promotes security and resiliency within the water sector. EPA, in close cooperation with the sector, is using a multi-layered approach to ensure the water sector assesses its vulnerabilities, reduces risks, prepares for emergencies and responds to intentional incidents and/or natural disasters. Over the past several years, great progress has been made and the comprehensive approach taken in HR 2868 will ensure that this progress continues.

Working in the public interest, the more than 29,000 members of the American Public Works Association plan, design, build, operate, manage and maintain the water supply, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, transportation infrastructure and other structures and facilities essential to our nation's economy and way of life.

Again, I urge you to bring the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act to the floor of the House for a vote. Thank you for your leadership and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter B. King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "P".

Peter B. King
Executive Director

PRESIDENT
Larry T. Koehle, PEng., MPA
Brampton, Ontario

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Peter B. King