



August 30, 2017

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairman:

The Alliance for Water Efficiency would like to express our strong support for S. 1460, the *Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017*, and our thanks for your leadership in sponsoring this important and innovative legislation. Your legislation contains numerous proposals that will greatly advance the vital need to conserve energy and water for many years to come and that highlight the crucial, symbiotic relationship between those two efforts.

We are a stakeholder-based non-profit organization dedicated to the efficient and sustainable use of water. Our members and supporters include regional, state and local water utilities, plumbing, appliance and irrigation manufacturers, governmental planning agencies, environmental and energy advocacy organizations, water-use experts, corporations and individuals—all of whom share a great interest in promoting the efficient and sustainable use of water in the United States and Canada.

We are particularly pleased that your bill would authorize the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense® program, a highly successful, voluntary product-labeling program that has proven its effectiveness in reducing customer water use in the United States. As you know, EPA has operated WaterSense for more than 10 years using the EPA administrator's discretionary funding authority, but WaterSense is currently listed for zero funding in the President's FY18 budget. It is crucial that Congress authorize WaterSense and then assign an appropriate funding level so this vital program can continue.

We also strongly support your proposal to create a new, interagency Nexus of Energy and Water Sustainability (NEWS) Office that would focus research, development and pilot programs on the relationship between energy and water conservation. Your proposed Smart Energy and Water Efficiency pilot programs along with similar plans to increase energy and water efficiency measures in building codes, manufacturing procedures and multifamily housing construction all would all contribute to vital conservation efforts going forward.

We stand ready to assist you in the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Ann Dickinson".

Mary Ann Dickinson  
President and CEO

33 N LaSalle Street  
Suite 2275  
Chicago, IL 60602

OFFICE (773) 360-5100  
TOLL-FREE (866) 730-A4WE  
FAX (773) 345-3636

[allianceforwaterefficiency.org](http://allianceforwaterefficiency.org)  
[home-water-works.org](http://home-water-works.org)

