



December 4, 2023

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Chairwoman  
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 Chairwoman McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Member Pallone:

The below organizations write in strong support of the Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety Act (WIPPES Act) (H.R. 2964). As stakeholders representing the nation’s wastewater agencies and wipes industry, we have worked collaboratively with the committee to develop a commonsense approach to address the adverse impacts associated with the inappropriate flushing of nonflushable wipes into the sewer system. We are delighted that the committee will mark-up the legislation.

The advancement of the legislation for House floor debate and a vote will bring our shared concern to reduce operation and maintenance costs associated with the flushing of these wipes to the fore. Improper disposal of nonflushable wipes can cause adverse impacts to wastewater systems that ultimately put upward pressure on the rates the public pays for this vital service. At a national-level, wet wipes are responsible for \$441 million a year in additional operating costs at U.S. clean water utilities.<sup>1</sup> This legislation could ultimately help reduce those costs and support local agencies in their mission of protecting public health and the environment.

For several months we, as representatives of public agencies, industry, and environmental advocates, have worked with the committee to develop a policy that will inform consumers how to dispose of single-use wipes in a manner that avoids the inadvertent and incorrect flushing of wipes down the toilet. The WIPPES Act achieves this goal in a common sense and cost-effective manner by requiring the prominent display of “Do Not Flush” on product packaging. Ultimately, H.R. 2964 is a win for the public, as it will help to reduce clogged pipes that impose increased maintenance costs on local agency ratepayers and can have adverse impacts on the environment.

Again, we are grateful for the committee’s commitment to advance H.R. 2964 and look forward to House passage upon committee approval and reporting of H.R. 2964.

Sincerely,  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
Association of Nonwoven Fabrics Industry  
Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group  
California Association of Sanitation Agencies  
Consumer Healthcare Products Association  
Kimberly-Clark  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies  
National Rural Water Association  
Procter & Gamble  
Washington Association of Sewer & Water Districts  
Water Environment Federation  
West County Wastewater

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<sup>1</sup> 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#](https://www.nacwa.org/docs/default-source/resources---public/govaff-3-cost_of_wipes-1.pdf?sfvrsn=b535fe61_2#)