\_\_\_, 2022

Dear Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_:

As a utility representing [service area] of your constituents in [state/congressional district], I am writing on behalf of our customers at [name of utility] to request your support and cosponsorship of S. 3958, the *Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety (WIPPES) Act*.

For far too long, clean water agencies and their workers have dealt with the clogs, strained and damaged equipment, and extra costs and dangers associated with the improper disposal of disposable nonwoven products – commonly known as wet wipes – that are flushed into sewer systems but do not break down as advertised. Public clean water utility ratepayers have paid the literal price for these mislabeled products through higher rates to address the sewer system damage they cause. Many wipes on the market today that are labeled as “flushable” are prone to getting stuck in plumbing, forming clogs in sewer lines, and causing mechanical failures for utilities. Yet consumers are misled to believe that they are appropriate for disposal down the toilet.

Our utility, [add local cost projections/economic impacts from responding to and mitigating risks associated with the improper disposal of wipes, and/or trends you’ve experienced in the prevalence of wipes in your systems].

That is why I applaud the work of Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Susan Collins (R-ME) for introducing these important bipartisan bills to solve this problem. Specifically, the *WIPPES Act* would direct the Federal Trade Commission – in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – to issue regulations requiring wipes manufacturers to include clear, consumer-friendly “Do Not Flush” labeling on the packaging of wet wipes that are not designed to be flushed.

Most recently, the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and I am hopeful the Committee will act this year to hold a hearing and ultimately help ensure it is signed into law.

This legislation will protect critical wastewater infrastructure in homes and communities, help consumers make informed choices, and reduce the risk of sewer backups and overflows. Thank you for your consideration of this request and we appreciate all you are doing to help promote the viability of our sector. We encourage you to reach out to Caitlin Buchanan at Caitlin\_Buchanan@merkley.senate.gov, or Molly Ryan at Molly\_Ryan@collins.senate.gov to discuss or support these bills.

Sincerely,