April 21, 2016

The Honorable Ben Cardin
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) is pleased to support your legislation, the Firm, Unwavering National Dedication to Water (FUND Water) Act of 2016 (S. 2583). For 60 years, CASA has been the leading voice for public wastewater agencies on regulatory, legislative and legal issues. We are an association of local agencies, engaged in advancing the recycling of wastewater into usable water, generation of renewable energy, and other valuable resources. Through these efforts we help create a clean and sustainable environment for Californians.

Recent reports on the deterioration of our wastewater and drinking water infrastructure highlight how imperative it is that the federal government reinvigorate its commitment to assist local agencies in addressing substantial funding needs for such infrastructure. USEPA’s report to Congress on nationwide funding shortfalls vividly documents $271 billion of needs to meet public health protection in the near term. In our own state of California there is a documented demand for more than $26 billion in infrastructure assistance.

S. 2583’s provisions to authorize $35 billion in Clean Water State Revolving Fund monies would provide vital assistance to help meet the underfunded capital needs of our agencies that are working to protect public health and the environment. This assistance would also provide essential support for the development of sustainable water supplies through water recycling, a high priority for our agencies dealing with drought in the arid west.

We look forward to working with you to advance S. 2583 toward enactment.

Sincerely yours,

Roberta L. Larson
Executive Director