November 3, 2020

The Honorable Tom Udall
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

On behalf of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) we write in support of the Plastic Pellet Free Waters Act (S. 4681). CASA represents more than 125 local public agencies engaged in collecting, treating, and recycling wastewater to ensure protection of California’s public health and its environment.

We commend your commitment to address this pervasive form of plastic pollution and to eliminate the future discharge of these pellets into the nation’s waterways. As stewards of the public health and environment, we believe the most effective method to reduce pollution and improve water quality is at the source. The priority to remove such plastics pollution before they enter waterways and wastewater systems as embodied in S. 4681 is vital to effective control of plastics pollution.

The persistence and pervasiveness of pre-production plastic pellets has been documented for many years. In a report published in 2016, the global consulting firm, Eunomia, reported that 80% of the annual plastic pollution found in the world’s oceans originates from land-based sources and that the volume of plastic pellet pollution in marine environments equates to 230,000 tons annually. Further, these pellets never fully breakdown or dissolve, but continue to disintegrate into smaller plastic particles known as micro-plastics. These micro-plastics present potentially significant issues for clean water agencies and could adversely impact the health of ecosystems.

If CASA can be a resource for you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact me at alink@casaweb.org or (916) 446-0388.

Sincerely,

Adam Link
Executive Director

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
    Senator Kamala Harris