

Plumbing Industry Leadership Coalition Support

The WaterSense Efficiency, Conservation, and Adaptation Act of 2014 (S. 2226)

May 20, 2014

Dear Senator:

Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) recently introduced legislation addressing water and energy efficiency, “*The WaterSense Efficiency, Conservation, and Adaptation Act of 2014*” (S. 2226). This measure seeks to improve water use efficiency in the United States and promote smart water systems to help communities and families nationwide make significant progress in conserving water, while reducing costs. As representatives of water- and plumbing-related organizations from across the country, members of the Plumbing Industry Leadership Coalition urge you to cosponsor and support S. 2226.

While there is an urgent need to address our aging infrastructure, Americans can act much more quickly to reduce water use by billions of gallons a day, simply by replacing old, water-intensive plumbing fixtures and installing water-efficient plumbing fixtures inside and outside their homes. Public-private sector estimates show that **three billion gallons of water per day in water savings** – about 7 percent of total publicly supplied water – would be achieved by retrofitting pre-1994 toilets, showerheads, faucets, and urinals in residences and buildings with products meeting the current law, as well as with other WaterSense labeled products. Data shows that only 5 percent of the market has transitioned to these water efficient products so far.

S. 2226 is designed to encourage a larger percentage of the marketplace to voluntarily adopt water-saving measures. The bill would promote residential water efficiency through state rebate and incentive programs and help water systems adapt to and mitigate the effects of droughts and floods. S. 2226 also would authorize WaterSense, a public-private partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which is the water conservation corollary to Energy Star.

WaterSense works collaboratively with companies, organizations, and communities to bring WaterSense labeled products to the marketplace, encourage technological innovation, and make it easy to purchase high-performing, water-efficient products. WaterSense also partners with irrigation professionals and irrigation certification to promote water-efficient landscape irrigation practices. WaterSense labeled plumbing products are 20 percent more water-efficient than products meeting the current federal law and have been independently tested and certified to meet efficiency and

performance standards. All WaterSense labeled products must perform as well or better than their non WaterSense counterparts.

Our coalition is composed of members of the water industry, who have united to educate the public on the importance of clean, safe, and reliable water.

Water efficient plumbing products not only conserve water, energy and money, but also reduce the strain on our aging infrastructure. We urge you to join Senator Tom Udall in cosponsoring this important piece of legislation. Please contact Legislative Assistant Johnathan Black at Jonathan.Black@tomudall.senate.gov or at [202-224-6621](tel:202-224-6621). If you have any questions about this legislation and our support for it, please contact Stephanie Salmon, VP Government Affairs, Plumbing Manufacturers International, [202-452-7135](tel:202-452-7135), or ssalmon@pmihome.org.

Sincerely,

Members of the Plumbing Industry Leadership Coalition

Alliance for Water Efficiency

Mary Ann Dickinson, President and CEO

www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org

American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association

Heather Kinkade, Executive Director

<http://www.arcsa.org/>

American Society of Plumbing Engineers

Jim Kendzel, Executive Director/CEO

www.aspa.org

American Supply Association

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Copper Development Association Inc.

Andrew G. Kireta Jr., Vice President

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International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)

Russ Chaney, Chief Executive Officer

<http://www.iapmo.org/Pages/IAPMOgroup.aspx>

International Code Council

Dominic Sims, Chief Executive Officer

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Mechanical Hub

John Mesenbrink, President

<http://mechanical-hub.com/>

Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors - National Association

Steven A. Rivers, President

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Plumbing Manufacturers International

Barbara C. Higgins, CEO/Executive Director

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United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States, Canada and Australia

William P. Hite, General President

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