

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 7, 2018

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On June 5, 2018, your Administration released a Statement of Administration Policy recommending that you sign the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2018, H.R. 8, into law should it come to your desk in its current form. However, this House bill fails to include a strong and permanent Buy America standard that you have previously supported.

I strongly believe American workers should build our infrastructure with American products, and taxpayers' money should not be spent to support foreign workers. Our American manufacturers and workers deserve a permanent Buy America pledge from Washington that rewards their hard work and my legislation, the Made In America Water Infrastructure Act, S. 808, provides this commitment.

On April 18, 2017, while visiting Kenosha, Wisconsin you said you supported my legislation and this permanent Buy America rule. In fact you said, "I agree with her 100 percent."¹ Therefore, I am disappointed that your Statement of Administration Policy has embraced House legislation that short-changes American manufacturers and workers, and falls short of making good on the promise of support you made in Wisconsin last year.

In the Senate, I worked to include my legislation in the WRDA that recently passed out of the Environment and Public Works Committee. The legislation is expected to be considered by the Senate in the near future. I am urging you to call on the House to support my legislation to make permanent Buy America requirements for iron and steel used in water infrastructure projects and ensure that the House works to include it in the final version of the WRDA.

As you recall, the last time WRDA was reauthorized, the provisions of S. 808 were included in the Senate WRDA, which passed 95-3 on September 15, 2016. However, Speaker Ryan and House Republican leadership stripped them from the bill that would eventually pass in to law. The media reported that Speaker Ryan did so after the urging from, "lobbyists for several large foreign steelmakers."²

My legislation would apply permanent Buy America requirements to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)—a federal-state partnership that helps ensure safe drinking water for all 50 states and territories. Making the requirements permanent will give American

¹ Zanona, Melanie. "Trump Says He Supports Dem 'Buy America' Bill." *TheHill*, 19 Apr. 2017.

² Mullins, Brody, and Kristina Peterson. "Bill's 'Buy America' Provision Sets Up Potential Clash for GOP, Donald Trump." *The Wall Street Journal*. Dow Jones & Company, 02 Dec. 2016.

manufacturers the certainty they need to expand their facilities and hire additional workers. Using American-made materials in our drinking water systems is an important way to ensure quality control, which will give peace of mind to state water utilities whose communities rely on the DWSRF. Between 1997 and 2015, the DWSRF program provided more than \$27.9 billion in low interest loans to more than 12,000 projects. These projects include: improving drinking water treatment; fixing or replacing old pipes; improving the source of the water supply; replacing or constructing finished water storage tanks; or any other infrastructure projects needed to protect public health.

In closing, I again urge you to correct the omission of the House WRDA by ensuring that the WRDA legislation that reaches your desk includes this crucial reform that we both support to require that our nation's drinking water infrastructure is built with American workers and American-made materials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tammy Baldwin". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senator