

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

August 27, 2018

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

Dear Mr. President:

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. Right now, they don't have this pledge and we need to change that so we are supporting American businesses and our workers here at home.

My legislation, the Made In America Water Infrastructure Act, S. 880, provides this permanent commitment and the last time the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) was reauthorized before you took office, the provisions of S. 880 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 into law. The media reported that Speaker Ryan did so after the urging from, "lobbyists for several large foreign steelmakers."¹

After taking office, you visited Kenosha, Wisconsin on April 18, 2017 and said you supported my legislation and this permanent Buy America rule. In fact, you said, "I agree with her 100 percent."²

I once again worked to include a permanent Buy America requirement in the 2018 Senate version of WRDA that passed the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee on May 22, 2018. However, a similar provision is absent from the House WRDA and I am disappointed that your Statement of Administration Policy embraced this 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.

The House and Senate are now working to reconcile the two versions of WRDA to reach a final agreement for you to sign into law. Now is the time for you to speak out and call on Speaker Ryan and the House to support my legislation to make permanent Buy America requirements for iron and steel used in water infrastructure projects and ensure that it is included in the final version of WRDA.

¹ 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.

² Zanova, Melanie. "Trump Says He Supports Dem 'Buy America' Bill." *The Hill*, 19 Apr. 2017.

The federal government currently spends billions of taxpayer dollars on infrastructure projects that are not subject to Buy America requirements. The result is American taxpayer money is being spent to buy foreign products and support workers in other countries. 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 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, you need to back up your words with action. I'm proud to have earned your support for my Buy America reform and now is the time to keep your promise to workers in Wisconsin and across this country. I again urge you to make sure that the WRDA legislation that reaches your desk includes a permanent Buy America pledge that requires that our nation's drinking water infrastructure is built with American workers and American-made materials.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senator

Cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, House Minority Leader
The Honorable John Barrasso, Chairman, Senate Environment and Public Works
Committee
The Honorable Thomas Carper, Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works
Committee
The Honorable Bill Shuster, Chairman, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
The Honorable Peter DeFazio, Ranking Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee