

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 17, 2017

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

Dear Mr. President:

You have announced that this week will be ‘Made in America’ week at the White House. I have urged Congress to advance my legislation to require water infrastructure be made with 100 percent American iron and steel—legislation that you said you support “100 percent”<sup>1</sup> when you were in Wisconsin on April 18, 2017. However, the leadership in Congress has not acted on my legislation and you have not called on them to do so.

Given your support of my *Made in America Water Infrastructure Act*, I urge you to call on Senate Republican leaders to take up my Buy America legislation during ‘Made in America’ week. Together, we can support American manufacturing and ensure that critical drinking water projects help create American jobs and use high quality American iron and steel.

Like you, I believe that we must take steps to ensure that American products are prioritized when American tax dollars are spent. Domestic preferences help our manufacturing sector and ensure that critical products meet our high standards. This has been a key tenet of your Administration’s ‘Buy American, Hire American’ policy, enshrined in your Executive Order on Buy American and Hire American of April 18, 2017. Yet, you have not urged Congress to act on my Made in America Water Infrastructure Act, S. 880. This legislation will require all projects financed by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to use American-made iron and steel and should be a key component of your ‘Made in America’ week.

The bill’s provisions were included in the Water Resources and Development Act that passed the Senate 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. According to a Wall Street Journal report, the decision to remove the provision was made after Speaker Ryan’s office came under intense lobbying pressure from Russian steel interests represented in Washington by former Ryan staff.<sup>2</sup>

Buy America policies, such as those included in this bill, are broadly popular and included in many federal programs already. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund is a federal-state partnership that acts as an infrastructure bank to help ensure safe drinking water for all 50 states and territories. Between 1997 and 2015, the DWSRF program provided more than \$27.9 billion

---

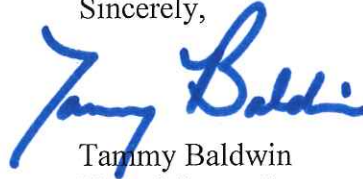
<sup>1</sup> Zanona, Melanie. "Trump Says He Supports Dem 'Buy America' Bill." *TheHill*, 19 Apr. 2017.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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.

Americans are tired of the status quo in Washington. We look forward to working with you to ensure that our nation's drinking water infrastructure is built with American materials by moving this legislation through the Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tammy Baldwin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "T".

Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator