



SILVERDALE CHAMBER

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August 25, 2021

Dear Members of the U.S. House of Representatives:

The Board of Directors of the Silverdale Chamber of Commerce urge your support for the bipartisan infrastructure package under consideration by the House later this month. The legislation passed the Senate by a bipartisan vote of 69 to 30 on August 10, 2021.

Companies and communities are facing growing challenges regarding available water to meet public health, economic growth, and food and energy security needs. The water crisis in the American West is reaching unprecedented levels in its duration and impact. This megadrought, in addition to the already crumbling drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure across our nation, means that all people must do their part to conserve water and provide solutions.

We commend you for including the following provisions on Western water infrastructure and drought resilience in the agreement:

- Providing incentives for water reuse and recycling.
- Supporting the Department of the Interior's WaterSmart program to promote water conservation, including nature-based projects.
- Implementing the consensus-based Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan.
- Developing solutions for water storage, groundwater recharge, and watershed protection.
- Identifying additional sources of local water, including desalination projects.

There is also \$1.5 billion in funding for predisaster mitigation programs through FEMA and more than \$3.3 billion to reduce risks from wildfires that will assist companies and communities prepare ahead of the next crisis.

Building smart, modern, resilient infrastructure will ensure that the business community, employees, and customers have access to needed water resources and help prepare for the next crisis. This bipartisan legislation is an important step toward making this happen. The Board of Directors of the Silverdale Chamber urge you to take up the Senate bipartisan package as soon as possible and do not connect passage to reconciliation.

We stand ready to assist you as this proposal moves forward.

Sincerely,


Rick Soper
Chair, Board of Directors


David Emmons
President/CEO

*Heartbeat
of Kitsap*