



**THE
ENVIRONMENTAL
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September 14, 2011

The Honorable Fred Upton, Chair
The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 1340

Dear Mr. Upton and Mr. Waxman:

The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) would like to express its support for, and comments on, H.R. 1340, the "End Unnecessary Costs Caused by Report Mailing Act of 2011." The bill would allow the nation's public water systems to save money and increase efficiency by simplifying and streamlining the current Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirement that community water systems mail Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) to all of their customers at least once per year.

H.R. 1340 would provide some relief by eliminating the mailing requirement for public water systems that have not experienced a maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation during the reporting period.

ECOS supports the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators' (ASDWA) recommendations to go a step further and remove the draft bill's caveat that those water systems that have had an MCL violation in the preceding period must mail a CCR to their customers. SDWA Sections 1414 (c)(1-3) *already* include extensive direct public notice requirements for violations of drinking water requirements. To avoid duplication and offer utilities additional relief, we recommend that the language in the bill omit the direct mailing requirement for systems with MCL violations -- *provided* the water system has complied with any applicable Public Notice requirements during the reporting period.

ECOS also concurs with ASDWA's recommendations to include, as an additional option for transmitting the CCR, direct emailing of an electronic copy of the CCR by utilities who utilize email to electronically bill their customers.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to the Committee's passage of this common sense legislation.

Sincerely,

Teresa Marks
Chair, ECOS Water Committee
Director, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality