



July 28, 2003

Congressman Gary Miller  
1037 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Support for H.R. 306**

Dear Congressman Miller:

The Regional Water Authority (RWA) applauds your leadership in proposing amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) that would help shield water utilities from lawsuits if the utilities were in compliance with federal and state regulations. This legislation will help protect and maintain confidence in the Safe Drinking Water Act.

RWA is an organization in California that represents the interests of nearly 20 water providers serving water to over one million people in Sacramento, Placer and El Dorado Counties. RWA's mission is to help its members protect and enhance the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources in the region. The attached RWA Fact Sheet provides a list of member agencies as well as additional information about the organization.

RWA supports the goals of H.R. 306. The costs of defending against multiple legal claims can be financially burdensome to water providers in our area, and indeed, across the nation. This is especially true for small systems. In addition, we request that H.R. 306 make it clear that drinking water providers are responsible for meeting only those water standards which are enforceable under federal and state law. Non-enforceable drinking water criteria, such as California's Action Levels, should be prevented by this Act from creating water supplier liability for public health impacts.

RWA believes that H.R. 306 is a very important piece of legislation that would make necessary improvements to the SDWA to help water utilities carry out their mission of providing safe, reliable and affordable drinking water.

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I look forward to working with you and your staff to secure the passage of H.R. 306.

Sincerely,

Edward D. Winkler  
Executive Director

cc: Congressman Ken Calvert  
Congressman Cal Dooley  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
David Reynolds, ACWA  
RWA Board of Directors

Attachment