



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

March 2, 2020

The Honorable Marcia Fudge
U.S. House of Representatives
2344 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

SUPPORT: H.R.4832, the Low-Income Water Customer Assistance Programs Act of 2019

Dear Representative Fudge:

Metropolitan is pleased to support H.R. 4832, which would amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish pilot programs that assist low-income households in maintaining access to sanitation and drinking water.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a regional wholesaler that provides water for 26 member public agencies to deliver - either directly or through their sub-agencies - to nearly 19 million people living in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties. Consistent with our mission to provide adequate and reliable supplies of safe drinking water, we believe that H.R. 4832 will provide significant benefits for low-income households in our service area and nationwide.

Specifically, we are supportive of the bill's provision to provide grants and technical assistance that will address access issues and maintain access to sanitation and drinking water services for low income and environmental at-risk households, as well as tax exemptions for utility assistance to low-income households. Additionally, the bill would require eligible entities to develop a long-term financial plan based on rate analysis, an asset management plan and a capital improvement plan to help ensure long term progress to provide these services going forward.

It is our hope that H.R. 4832 will move quickly through the 116th Congress and be enacted into law this year. Please let us know if Metropolitan can be a resource to you and your staff in connection with the advancement of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Kightlinger", is written over a light blue circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager