Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI) is pleased to support passage of S. 3021, America’s Water Infrastructure Act. This bipartisan measure achieves several key priorities of the plumbing manufacturing sector. We are hopeful that the full Senate will vote on this bill shortly. The measure, America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, includes PMI-supported language formally authorizing the WaterSense program.

PMI is the U.S. trade association for the plumbing fixtures and fittings manufacturing industry. Our members produce 90 percent of all plumbing products in the United States and represent more than 150 brands. PMI’s members are industry leaders in manufacturing innovative, reliable, and water-efficient plumbing products and related supplies. These products—sold and distributed in all 50 states—include toilets, urinals, faucets, showerheads, bathtubs, sinks, drinking fountains, emergency eye wash stations and showers, as well as hundreds of types of components, valves, and piping, which are key to safe plumbing systems. Our members supply these essential products to residential and commercial buildings including restaurants, hotels, and manufacturing facilities, as well as to not-for-profit and governmental facilities including schools, hospitals, nursing homes, correctional facilities, and military bases. Our members directly employ nearly 30,000 workers across the country.

In particular, we support the bill’s two-year reauthorization of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program and provisions formally authorizing the successful Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) WaterSense program, as well as key investments in critical infrastructure for our country’s ports, harbors, and inland waterways. WaterSense program is an example of an effective collaboration between industry and the government in determining voluntary water-efficient performance measures that can be used by industry and consumers, as well as by states and public and private agencies charged with supplying water to American households and businesses. Not only does WaterSense save water and money, it continues to drive innovation by U.S. plumbing manufacturers to deliver water-saving plumbing products.

We appreciate that the bill also includes a three-year reauthorization of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program, as well as new funding authorizations that will support water infrastructure resiliency investment, programs to address lead in schools, and facilitate the development of advanced water treatment technologies. These policies will contribute toward more robust and sustainable drinking water and wastewater infrastructure across the country.
We thank you for your commitment to these important water issues and look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on these issues.

Again, PMI would like to express our support for America’s Water Infrastructure Act and commend you and your colleagues for your leadership in developing this landmark legislation.

Sincerely,

Kerry C. Stackpole
Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director
Plumbing Manufacturers International

KCS:tbm

cc: Senator John Boozman
   Senator Ben Cardin