**PLEASE PUT THIS ON YOUR SYSTEM’S LETTERHEAD BEFORE SENDING!**

**UPDATE ALL THE HIGHLIGHTED INFORMATION TO USE THIS SAMPLE LETTER.**

July 8, 2024

The Honorable

Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Funding for the USDA Rural Development Water and Environmental Programs

Dear :

On behalf of the rural water and wastewater systems, the Florida Rural Water Association, Inc. (FRWA), the National Rural Water Association (NRWA), and all NRWA State Affiliates, we urge Congress to fully authorize funding for the USDA Rural Development Water and Environmental Programs (USDA WEP). These programs deliver proven, lasting technical support, including protecting the public’s health while maintaining affordable water access and ensuring sustainability in rural communities. These programs are vital not only to public health but also to the economic vitality of rural America.  Rural Development is a leader in helping rural America improve the quality of life and increasing the economic opportunities for rural people.

USDA WEP is the only Federal program to provide funding exclusively for communities with populations of 10,000 or less. This funding is crucial for construction of water and waste facilities in rural communities.

FRWA is always a call away and eager to help if we need technical or emergency assistance and this funding is critical so they can continue providing this needed assistance. On behalf of our rural water community in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County of Florida urge you to keep the funding within the USDA WEPs. Thank you for your consideration. Please reach out to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at ENTER YOUR EMAIL HERE or call us at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_if you or your staff have any questions or wish to discuss our concerns further.

Sincerely,

 signature

cc: Gary Williams, Florida Rural Water Association

 Alicia Keeter, Florida Rural Water Association