



March 6, 2018

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

**PMI Board of Directors**

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On behalf of Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI), I am writing to urge you to continue to maintain and support the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's highly successful **WaterSense® program**, a voluntary, public-private partnership that encourages voluntary reduction of water consumption by consumers and businesses. We were disappointed that the President's recent Fiscal Year 2019 budget calls for the program's elimination.

EPA's **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 consumers, industry, as well as states and local governments, and it is not duplicated by any other organization, private or public. It is universally supported by manufacturers and the public and private agencies charged with supplying water to American households and businesses.

Plumbing products bearing the WaterSense label are 20 percent more water-efficient than standard products; provide measurable water savings results; and require independent, third-party certification. Over the past decade, WaterSense products have helped consumers save a cumulative 2.1 trillion gallons of water and over \$14.2 billion in water and energy bills by using WaterSense-labeled products. The WaterSense label is critical to consumers seeking to identify and purchase a water-efficient plumbing product.

PMI is the nation's leading trade association for plumbing product manufacturers. Its members produce 90 percent of the plumbing products sold in the United States and employ thousands of workers in over 70 locations in 25 states. Our member companies' plumbing products are found in the majority of homes, commercial buildings, schools, restaurants, manufacturing facilities, hospitals, and hotels across the nation. Examples of these products include, but are not limited to showerheads, kitchen and bathroom faucets, toilets, urinals, fixture fittings, sinks, tubs, and waste disposal systems. PMI member companies design and produce water-efficient products, without sacrificing performance, and continue to raise the bar in developing the most advanced water-efficient plumbing products.

**WaterSense Provides Benefits to Manufacturers and Consumers**

PMI and its members have proudly participated in the WaterSense program since its inception, when it was created during the George W. Bush Administration 2006. As a

result of the program, plumbing manufacturers have developed more than 20,000 models of WaterSense-labeled products for bathrooms (toilets, showerheads, faucets, and urinals) and commercial kitchens. Today, more than 1,700 WaterSense partners, including manufacturers, water utilities, building groups, retailers, associations, and communities, collaborate with EPA to make this program successful.

### **EPA's Role is Critical to WaterSense's Success**

- The WaterSense program has created a new water efficiency benchmark for plumbing products that has allowed our members to confidently invest millions of dollars in product development and marketing initiatives, knowing that there will be a market for these products.
- The continued existence of the WaterSense program will continue to help create markets for future generations of water-efficient products and market opportunities for manufacturing and retail partners.
- Rather than having local officials make their own determination on the maximum amount of water used per flush by toilets and urinals and water used per minute by faucets and showerheads, WaterSense provides the national specifications agreed to by industry and guaranteed by the federal government. This has helped prevent states and municipalities from creating their own patchwork of new specifications that manufacturers and other industry stakeholders would have to meet, which would add to the costs of implementing and complying with such efforts.
- WaterSense serves as a de facto **voluntary** national standard that has allowed states to adopt more water efficient standards and be assured that there are products already available in the marketplace.
- Without the EPA in charge, there would be no national organization to oversee the use of the label that ensures consumers and builders that they're getting a product that works.

### **WaterSense Enjoys Broad, Bipartisan Congressional Support**

The strong congressional support for EPA's WaterSense program is underscored by recent actions taken by the House and Senate Interior/EPA Appropriations subcommittees. Both chambers included the following FY18 appropriations report language rejecting the elimination of this important program:

- Senate report: *"The Committee rejects the proposed elimination of the WaterSense program, and provides not less than the fiscal year 2017 level."* Dept. of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Senate Appropriations Bill.
- House report: *"The Committee...rejects the proposed elimination of the WaterSense program."* H. Rep. 115-238 - Dept. of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

We look forward to meeting with you and your staff to discuss this program. In addition, our members would welcome the opportunity to host you at their facilities to see first-hand the ongoing technology research and development, as well as production of thousands of innovative, highly engineered plumbing products.

PMI believes the WaterSense program is one of the most cost-effective nationwide programs geared toward saving money and protecting water resources. Its track record is impressive in promoting successful partnerships between public and private entities that protect and improve our nation's water resources. We urge you to preserve and fund the widely supported WaterSense program in FY19 and beyond.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Stephanie Salmon in the PMI Washington Office at [ssalmond@gmail.com](mailto:ssalmond@gmail.com) or 202-452-7135.

Sincerely,



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Plumbing Manufacturers International  
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cc: David Ross, Assistant Administrator, EPA Office of Water  
Lee Forsgren, Deputy Assistant Administrator, EPA Office of Water  
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Veronica Blette, Chief, EPA WaterSense Branch  
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