



January 3, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

**PMI Board of  
Directors**

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*Vice President*

**Joel Smith**

Kohler Company

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*Directors*

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Lavelle Industries

**Carol Baricovich**

InSinkErator

Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI) congratulates you on your election to the United States House of Representatives and new leadership positions. Plumbing manufacturers look forward to working with you and the members of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress as you craft policy solutions that will help our nation's economy and manufacturers thrive.

PMI is the nation's leading 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, waste disposal systems, and emergency eye wash stations, as well as hundreds of types of components, valves and piping that are key to safe plumbing systems.

The U.S. plumbing manufacturing industry, along with our wholesale and retail partners, directly provide over 193,000 jobs and more than \$10 billion dollars in wages nationwide.

As the new Congress commences, PMI encourages lawmakers to act on the following industry priorities:

- **Ensure American Manufacturers' International Competitiveness.** The U.S. operates in a global economy and international supply chain. We agree that trading partners should abide by the global trade rules. Accordingly, we believe that targeted trade actions are effective measures for proven trade violations. Broadly applied tariffs, however, are not. PMI remains very concerned over the harmful consequences of the Section 301 tariffs on \$250 billion worth of imports from China, particularly on plumbing manufacturers, their employees, consumers, and the home building and home improvement sectors. PMI urges the Congress and the Trump Administration to reexamine the impact of the tariffs, which serve as a tax increase on the American consumer and put jobs at risk.

- **Invest in Transportation Infrastructure.**  
Make urgently needed investments to our national infrastructure networks, including roads, bridges, ports, energy, drinking water and wastewater systems, and buildings in 2019. The U.S. infrastructure is in desperate need of a major upgrade. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, America’s infrastructure scores a D+. Structurally deficient bridges, dams and levees, inadequate roads, water mains and more require restoration.
- **Invest in Water Infrastructure.**  
Nationwide, a large proportion of our water infrastructure – including water and wastewater treatment systems and dams – has reached the end of its useful life. As much as 14 to 18 percent of the treated water that goes into distribution systems leaks into the ground, according to the American Water Works Association. PMI urges lawmakers to remain firmly committed to investing in our nation’s water infrastructure as part of the total infrastructure investment.
- **Increase Efficiency of Federal Buildings.**  
PMI encourages lawmakers to promote high performance and resilient systems in buildings and to promote the retrofitting of older buildings with water-efficient plumbing products.
- **Invest in the Next Generation of Skilled, Technical Workers.**  
The United States will need to fill nearly 3.5 million manufacturing jobs over the next decade, and many of these jobs may go unfilled due to a skills gap. PMI urges Congress to ensure that federal training and educational programs receive adequate funding to maintain a skilled and dynamic technical workforce.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues on the passage of common-sense policies that will keep our national economy and plumbing manufacturing industry on a path of strong and sustained growth.

If you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance, please contact me or Stephanie Salmon, PMI’s Washington representative at 202-452-7132 or [ssalmondc@gmail.com](mailto:ssalmondc@gmail.com). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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