LAMAR ALEXANDER
TENNESSEE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 26, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee to express my strong support for the City's efforts to build a new water treatment plant with funding through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program.

Replacing the City of Oak Ridge's existing water treatment plant is crucial not only to their 30,000 residents, but also to the daily operations of the U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the National Nuclear Security Administration's Y-12 National Security Complex.

Federal operations at these sites include world-renowned supercomputing and materials research, nuclear energy programs, and national security missions. Any potential water supply disruptions could negatively affect the operations of these federal complexes and jeopardize ongoing federal environmental cleanup efforts.

The City's proposal includes the design and construction of a new 16 million gallon per day membrane water treatment plant to replace the City's conventional plant that was built in the 1940's. The cost of the plant will be supported by the State of Tennessee Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and hopefully the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program.

I hope you will carefully consider the City of Oak Ridge's application, especially given the project's importance to vital national security missions and scientific programs. I'd be glad to furnish additional information, or your office may wish to be in touch with Mackensie Burt of my staff at (202) 224-4944.

Sincerely,

Lamar Alexander
United States Senator