WAUKESHA COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 26, 2018

Jorianne Jernberg, WIFIA Program Director
USEPA Headquarters
William Jefferson Clinton Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Mail Code: 4202M
Washington, DC 20460

Re: City of Waukesha WIFIA Application

Dear Ms. Jernberg:

I am writing in support of the application by the City of Waukesha, Wisconsin for a loan under the federal Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (WIFIA).

The City of Waukesha is in need of a new water supply because the city's main water source contains levels of naturally-occurring radium that exceed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards and therefore Waukesha must meet a 2023 court-ordered deadline to comply with the federal standard. Waukesha's water source also has a severe drawdown that is due to a layer of shale rock which restricts recharge by rain and snowmelt, along with regional over-pumping. To meet its need for a new water supply, Waukesha applied to divert and return Lake Michigan water. The eight Great Lakes states and two Canadian provinces that reviewed its application have unanimously voted that Waukesha meets the strict conditions of the Great Lakes Compact, including the fact that Waukesha has no reasonable water supply alternative to Great Lakes water.

The residents of Waukesha need a long-term water supply that is safe, reliable and sustainable. In addition to the benefits for the families and businesses that are served by the Waukesha Water Utility, there are regional benefits to this project. Some of those benefits include regional economic benefits for contractors, consultants and their employees; ending the largest Wisconsin withdrawal of the deep aquifer; and a water supply agreement with the City of Milwaukee that will provide millions of dollars in new revenue to the region's largest city.

The financial burdens of this $285 million project for a city of 71,000 residents are substantial. Total water bills (water supply and wastewater) are expected to increase by about 150% in the coming years. A WIFIA loan will prevent some of that increase while assisting the city to comply with federal drinking water standards.

Thank you for your time and sincere consideration of Waukesha's WIFIA application.

[redacted]

PAUL FARROW
Waukesha County Executive

515 W Moreland Blvd., AC320 • Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188-3878
Phone: (262) 548-7902 • Fax: (262) 896-8510 • www.waukeshacounty.gov