



COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Established in 1918 as a public agency

GENERAL MANAGER
Jim Barrett

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Robert Cheng

CLERK OF THE BOARD
Sylvia Bermudez

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Dan Charlton

October 3, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Energy &
Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Energy &
Commerce
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Please Consider H.R. 4733, the *Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Establishment Act*

Dear Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), I write to express our strong support for H.R. 4733, the *Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Establishment Act*, which was recently introduced and referred to your committee. CVWD respectfully requests the Committee's swift consideration and favorable report of this important legislation.

The bipartisan bill would permanently reauthorize the expired Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), a vital initiative that has helped low-income households pay overdue water and wastewater bills. By distributing grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through states and tribes, LIHWAP ensured vulnerable communities maintained access to essential water services. Water is a basic human necessity, and LIHWAP provided critical financial relief to those who need it most. CVWD strongly supports the continuation of this program as a means of safeguarding public health and promoting equitable access to clean, affordable water.

Established in 1918, CVWD has grown from its agricultural irrigation roots into a multifaceted agency serving nearly 1,000 square miles across Riverside, Imperial, and San Diego counties. Today, we provide a broad range of water-related services, including irrigation and drinking water delivery, groundwater replenishment, stormwater protection, wastewater treatment and recycling, and water conservation programs.

As you may know, LIHWAP was created during the COVID-19 pandemic to mitigate the risk of

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water service shut-offs. Between its launch in June 2021 and its funding lapse in September 2023, LIHWAP delivered relief to over 1.5 million households nationwide, providing more than 2.1 million individual water assistance benefits. These efforts prevented disconnections, restored service, and reduced bills for millions of families. Unfortunately, the program's authorization fully lapsed in March 2024, leaving many households in danger of going without these services.

In summary, the *Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Establishment Act* will help ensure fewer communities face water and financial insecurity for generations to come. Thank you for taking the time to consider co-sponsorship of this important bipartisan legislation, and for your ongoing support of equitable access to a safe, reliable, and high-quality water supply for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.M. Barrett", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

J. M. Barrett
General Manager