



September 23, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the US House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

I'm writing to express the National Association of Water Companies' (NAWC) continued support for the long-term extension and modification of solar energy and fuel cell investment tax credits. We are gratified to hear that the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act of 2008, intended to provide direct financial relief to American families and businesses, would include renewable energy tax credits.

The National Association of Water Companies represents all aspects of the private water service industry. The range of our members' business includes ownership of regulated drinking water and wastewater utilities and the many forms of public-private partnerships and management contract arrangements. Everyday, about 33.5 million Americans receive water service from a private water utility.

Pumping water requires a lot of energy. Water utilities are often among the largest customers of energy utilities. As good corporate citizens and environmental stewards, our members are committed to responsible uses of natural resources and using renewable energy sources whenever possible. Utilities also have a responsibility to their customers to keep utility rates at an affordable level.

Regrettably, these two responsibilities are often conflicting. For example, one of our members from Northern California carefully examined installing photovoltaic solar panels to run a pumping station. Currently, the costs associated with this project are prohibitive. This water company stands ready to make immediate investments in solar energy once the tax credits are made available. The passage of a package similar to the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act of 2008 with extended tax credits to utilities will help this utility reach its goal of using renewable energy to providing affordable, clean water along with new, green collar jobs to hardworking Americans.

We commend your hard work on these important issues. NAWC will work with you on this matter in whatever way possible to support the adoption of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter L. Cook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Cook, Executive Director