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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

February 16, 2007

The Honorable Stephen L. Johnson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Johnson:

Now that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Joint Funding Resolution, H.J. Res. 20, has been signed into law, I strongly urge that you give very careful consideration to including support for the following projects and funding levels in the agency's funding plan to be submitted to the Committee, pursuant to Title 1, Section 113:

- \$2,000,000 for the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium at West Virginia University. These funds would be used by the Center to continue its efforts in developing the necessary curricula for the 26 National Training Centers at various universities throughout the nation.
- \$750,000 for the National Small Flows Clearinghouse and Training Center at West Virginia University. EPA is charged with developing strategies and services for decentralized wastewater treatment systems for small and rural communities. However, EPA does not have sufficient staff to carry out its responsibility in this regard, and so has relied on units like the Small Flows Clearinghouse and Training Center at WVU to provide technical assistance and training for these communities.

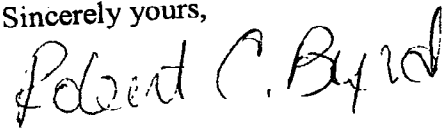
I would appreciate a follow-up report from you regarding these projects, including the level of funding they may receive in FY 2007. If you decide to proceed with these important initiatives, please advise me of the milestone events leading to their full implementation.

The Honorable Stephen L. Johnson
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Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact my Appropriations Staff Director,
Mr. Terry Sauvain, at (202) 224-7200. I look forward to your prompt response.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert C. Byrd". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Robert C. Byrd

RCB:pk



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 13 2007

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Byrd:

Thank you for your letter of February 16, 2007, to Stephen Johnson, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), expressing your interest in FY 2007 funding for the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium (NAFTC) and the National Small Flows Clearing House and Training Center. I have been asked to respond to your letter on behalf of the Administrator.

EPA submitted an FY 2007 Operating Plan for \$7.7 billion to Congress on March 15, 2007. The Plan is based on the Continuing Resolution passed by Congress in February that funds EPA for FY 2007. Per guidance from the Office of Management and Budget, earmarks are not allowed in EPA's budget for FY 2007, and no earmarks are funded in EPA's Operating Plan.

EPA is committed to being a good steward of our environment and a good steward of our tax dollars. EPA's FY 2007 Operating Plan reflects important policy choices as reflected in the President's FY 2007 Budget request. It effectively enables us to carry out the goals and objectives as set forth in our Strategic Plan to meet our mission of protecting human health and environment. Unfortunately, the FY 2007 Operating Plan does not provide funding for the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium or the National Small Flows Clearinghouse and Training Center.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may call James Blizzard, in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at 202-564-1695.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lyons Gray", is written over the typed name.

Lyons Gray
Chief Financial Officer