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February 23, 2009

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Evan Bayh
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Lugar and Bayh:

Please find enclosed a funding request for the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) for \$2.5 million in the FY2010 Energy & Water Development Appropriations Act. The requested funding is to be used to renovate the Organics Detection System (ODS) that ORSANCO has operated for many years. The ODS insures that more than 5 million people who get their drinking water from the Ohio River are protected from the consumption of contaminated water.

There are countless sources of chemical contamination along the Ohio River, and the ODS is the safety net to protect our water supply. The ODS has detected numerous unreported releases of chemicals that, left undetected, could have found their way to consumers. Coordinated by ORSANCO, the ODS is the backbone of a 981 mile river-wide network, communicating water quality information for the protection of water utilities and Ohio River consumers.

Unfortunately, much of the ODS equipment and technology is less than current to the extent that virtually all of the analytical equipment has surpassed its design life and vendor support no longer exists. Moreover, the communications software uses dial-up 56K modem technology which often experiences interruptions and operates at unacceptably slow speed.

Congress has already recognized the critical importance of this project. ORSANCO received a \$2.5 million authorization in the Water Resource Development Act of 2007 (WRDA'07) for use in renovating the ODS. Section 5117 of WRDA'07 authorized the US Army Corps of Engineers to provide "planning, design, and construction assistance" to ORSANCO for this project.

I know that you are keenly aware of how important the Ohio River is to the environmental, commercial, and public health of our state. On behalf of ORSANCO and the over 300,000 Indianans who get their drinking water from the Ohio River, I respectfully request that this critical funding be included in the FY2010 Energy & Water Development Appropriations Act

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in the amount of \$2.5 million. I would welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have regarding the ODS and this request. Please feel free to call me at 812-426-1231. Thank you in advance for your support.

Respectfully,



Joseph H. Harrison
ORSANCO Commissioner
Chair of Government Affairs Committee

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