



March 6, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman
Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C., 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C., 20510

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chairwoman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C., 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C., 20515

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, Chairwoman McMorris Rodgers, and Ranking Member Pallone:

The undersigned organizations supported the *Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety (WIPPES) Act* in the last Congress. That legislation, which we are working with the bill sponsors on toward reintroduction in the 118th Congress, will establish proper disposal labeling of non-flushable wet wipes. We hope that upon introduction the committees support the WIPPES Act and swiftly report out the legislation to the Senate and House floors.

This legislation takes a straightforward and reasonable approach to addressing the pervasive, but ultimately preventable pollution problem stemming from the improper disposal of non-flushable wipes in the nation’s wastewater systems. The WIPPES Act provides a common sense “Do Not Flush” labeling requirement for non-flushable wipes packaging and establishes a simple source management solution through consistent on-package consumer education. The wipes industry, environmental advocates, and the clean water sector support the WIPPES Act. We believe the legislation will advance our mutually shared interest to protect public infrastructure and the environment by promoting responsible disposal habits.

Due to the lack of consistent and clear disposal packaging instructions, consumers often unwittingly flush these wipes down the toilet. Because these types of wipes are not designed to be flushed, they can clog and damage pipes, pumps, and treatment equipment, resulting in increased operation and maintenance costs for clean water utilities. Additionally, the flushing of these wipes can cause potential environmental harms, such as sewer overflow events, and some may contribute microplastic and microfiber pollution to our water resources.

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The WIPPES Act will establish uniformity in labeling requirements for these non-flushable wipes distributed across the country. In the absence of a national “Do Not Flush” labeling standard for non-flushable wipes, some states are moving ahead to implement their own labeling standards. As a result, wipes manufacturers could potentially have to make state-specific product packaging and consumers would see inconsistent labeling from state-to-state. A national labeling requirement harmonizing existing state labeling laws would eliminate this potentially unnecessary impact on product cost and reduce confusion for the consumer.

We hope to have your support to advance common-sense solutions to the unique problems related to the flushing of non-flushable wipes. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues on the committee to ensure passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Association of Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
California Association of Sanitation Agencies
Consumer Healthcare Products Association
Kimberly-Clark
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
National Stewardship Action Council
Procter & Gamble
Water Environment Federation