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The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) is writing to put forth our findings and recommendations regarding the draft papers created by the EPA Decentralized Wastewater Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Partnership. The LGAC commends EPA's efforts to reach out to local officials to raise awareness of the feasibility and benefits of decentralized wastewater treatment systems.

Decentralized wastewater treatment can play an important role in safely and reliably meeting the wastewater management needs of communities on a variety of scales. **The Committee recommends that EPA use these papers to reach out broadly to communities to raise awareness about the opportunities to use decentralized wastewater treatment systems to achieve health, environmental and economic benefits.**

The Committee recommends adding Conservation Districts and Local Boards of Health as Partners under the MOU. These organizations can provide valuable perspective and help expand the outreach of the Decentralized MOU Partnership.

In conclusion, the LGAC finds that the draft papers are succinct, attractive and informative and will be useful to many types of local officials. The examples in each paper are very helpful to the reader. Many communities and local governments, especially small communities, do not have the technical staff to investigate various options for wastewater management. As communities develop, meeting wastewater treatment

standards can be economically and technically challenging. Development of these information papers is an important step towards helping communities identify wastewater management options that can be put into place in a timely fashion, that are affective and reliable, and that can be effectively maintained by the community over the long term.

Thank you for considering our comments. The Committee appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the EPA and looks forward to the opportunity to help EPA take the next step in reaching out broadly to communities across the country on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Mayor Heather McTeer
Chair
Local Government Advisory
Committee



Mayor Bob Dixon
Chair
Small Community Advisory
Subcommittee

cc: Nancy Stoner
James Hanlon
Sheila Frace
Kellie Kubena