

April 20, 2001

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Representative Calvert:

The Mono Lake Committee urges you to preserve the current water efficiency standards for household plumbing contained in the Federal Energy Policy Act of 1992 and not to co-sponsor Congressman Knollenberg's legislation, HR 1479, that would repeal those standards.

The main reason cited for introducing HR 1479 is the perceived lack of effectiveness of water-efficient toilets. However, unlike the first generation of these toilets, contemporary models do work well, and these national standards should not be repealed because of some early difficulties in the marketplace which have since been corrected.

About one-fourth of all toilets in the United States are now 1.6 gallons-per-flush toilets. If these 65-70 million toilets were not working, we would see far more complaints than we do. In fact, the reverse is happening. Customer satisfaction surveys conducted in numerous parts of the country have demonstrated that consumers for the most part are satisfied with these products.

Most importantly, these standards are saving water, which means cost savings and benefits to the environment. In California, the water savings mean critical energy savings as well. Toilets and showerheads represent over 40% of the water used in the average household. A law that can automatically reduce that usage by 30-50% is certainly worth keeping. In the Eastern Sierra, saving water has made it possible to save Mono Lake without creating water shortages for Los Angeles. Similar programs have been successful in your district.

Please help preserve water-efficiency standards that are important to our entire country and your district. If you have any questions, please contact me at 310-316-0041 or email me at [frances@monolake.org](mailto:frances@monolake.org).

Sincerely,

Frances Spivy-Weber  
Executive Director, Policy