



May 1, 2018

Administrator Mark Green
United States Agency for International Development
The Ronald Reagan Building
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20523-1000

Dear Administrator Green:

We appreciate the opportunity to share comments about the proposed reorganization of USAID. The U.S. Water Partnership (USWP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with 122 partners, which include 20 federal agencies, corporations such as IBM, Procter & Gamble, and Coca-Cola, and leading NGOs. Our leadership includes our Co-Chairs General Colin Powell and Secretary Madeleine Albright, and a distinguished group of advisors, many of whom you know. Our mission is to unite and mobilize U.S. expertise, resources, and ingenuity to address global water challenges, with a special focus on developing countries where needs are greatest. The Partnership members believe that water is fundamental to human and economic development and suffers from lack of prioritization and coordination among key institutions. We operate under a vision of working together for a water secure world and appreciate our strong partnership with USAID.

USWP serves as the single-entry point access to the best of U.S. engineering and human resources to address global water security challenges. Due to the breadth of our membership and large-scale participation from U.S. government agencies, the Partnership constitutes an unmatched national convening and catalytic platform that facilitates public-private sector collaboration.

USWP applauds the Administration for preparing and issuing the first-ever U.S. Global Water Strategy (GWS). USAID has been a leader in the development and implementation of the Strategy and has contributed significantly to the proposed “whole of U.S.” and “whole of government” approach to water, which we strongly endorse.

We know that the optimal placement of water and WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) is a challenge in any reorganization, inasmuch as it is an essential and cross-

cutting component of every aspect of economic development from health, to agriculture, education, and security; nonetheless, we are concerned to see that water and WASH appear nowhere in the high-level organization chart for USAID. We recognize the boxes on an organization chart do not tell the whole story, but they can be interpreted to reflect agency priorities, and as programs are implemented and budgets are set, the organizational structure and the priority of those entities is highly influential.

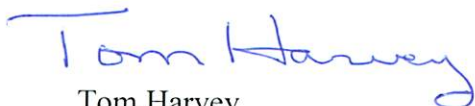
As you set the stage for what we expect to be a highly successful and effective tenure at USAID, we urge you to underscore the importance of water and WASH as a cross-cutting issue. One suggestion could be the way in which you engage two institutions that we believe already exist, the Water Leadership Council and the Center of Excellence on Water. The Water Leadership Council, led by the Water Coordinator with representatives across the agency, could be charged with developing strategic program and budget priorities for water and WASH across all agency programs. This can also serve as a focal point for coordination with other federal agencies under the GWS, and with corporations, NGOs, and other partners who are ready to collaborate and to invest resources in ways that enhance your objectives.

Given the central importance of WASH to health objectives, another suggestion would be to add WASH to the name of the Center of Excellence for Water. Other possible actions could include simply including “Water” in the name of the RFS Bureau.

Many of us in USWP leadership have served in senior government positions in administrations of both parties. We are therefore especially sensitive to “outside advice” about organizational matters. At the same time, given the outstanding platform the Administration has created with the Global Water Strategy, signals are very important.

We are happy to discuss any of this with you and your team. Above all, we thank you for your leadership and your consideration of these views. All of the 122 partners of USWP stand ready to support your water, WASH, and other objectives.

Sincerely,



Tom Harvey
Founder