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CHARLES D. BAKER
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June 1, 2021

Public Drinking Water Award Ceremony Winners
via
Martin Suuberg
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Commissioner Suuberg,

Our health and standard of living depend on an abundant supply of safe and clean water; and this past year, in the midst of a world-wide pandemic, has been difficult for us all. The 1624 public water suppliers and industries in Massachusetts have had to respond with great effort to keep the water running for every one of the 6.9 million people served by public drinking water across the Commonwealth. It is a twenty-four hour, seven days per week job that must be executed at the highest level to ensure the health and safety of Massachusetts residents.

In honor of Drinking Water Week, which was recognized nationwide from May 2, 2021 through May 8, 2021, I am pleased that the Commonwealth is hosting a virtual Public Drinking Water Award Ceremony to honor the 177 public water systems that have done an excellent job meeting all compliance requirements in 2020. Please convey this letter, which expresses my appreciation to the attendees at the ceremony. I cannot say enough of what a great job these systems, as exemplary public water systems, have done; you are certainly very worthy of the 2021 Public Water Systems Award.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, MassDEP and others have commented on your sustained and dedicated performance providing an essential resource to our citizens. The pandemic put stress on all of you and you still ensured the provision of water supply to service all.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the work of Massachusetts Water Works Association and its Executive Director, Jennifer Pederson, for facilitating joint meetings between the water suppliers and MassDEP throughout the State of Emergency. These meetings have been

instrumental in facilitating close communication within the water system community and ensuring that the issues they faced during this pandemic were addressed as quickly as possible.

The Massachusetts Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (MAWARN) is also commended for its dedication to the continuity of water supply operations and protection of the individual water suppliers through its coordination with public water systems and its leadership in assisting with the distribution of 80,000 cloth masks to the water and wastewater operators. This personal protection equipment was sorely needed and graciously accepted.

It is also important to acknowledge the work of the MassDEP staff who worked diligently with you and other agencies to ensure that public water system issues were addressed.

Our water supply is an essential resource that must be operated, maintained, and conserved, and through it all you have done a marvelous job of providing clean and safe drinking water while also keeping the Massachusetts economy going. Congratulations on a job well done in the most difficult of circumstances. I wish you continued success and good health in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Charles D. Baker
Governor