Ms. Susan Parker Bodine, Esq.
Assistant Administrator for
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Assistant Administrator Bodine:

I write today on behalf of the American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL) regarding your Agency’s COVID-19 Implications for EPA’s Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Program Memorandum dated March 26, 2020.

The ACIL is an association representing independent commercial scientific and engineering firms with over 1,000 facilities across the U.S. engaged in testing, product certification, consulting, and research and development to enhance public health and safety. Our organization has enjoyed a long standing working relationship with your Agency on a myriad of independent testing issues and we want to affirm that relationship by emphasizing our support; especially with COVID-19’s implications on drinking water authorities and wastewater treatment plants.

We agree with your memorandum’s directive requiring the continual monitoring and testing of public water systems during this recent pandemic. ACIL proudly represents the commercial environmental testing industry and we maintain there is plenty of laboratory capacity available to conduct these testing and monitoring functions as you outlined in your memorandum.

Please consider ACIL as a resource; especially if any issues arise that may prevent any laboratories from conducting their analysis. Our member labs currently support the majority of the compliance testing across the U.S. and I assure you that they are adequately prepared to carry out the necessary testing to ensure that facilities are operating within their permits and standards. Because testing is of critical importance to maintaining the quality of drinking water, surface water, and the air we breathe, the commercial testing laboratory community has taken the appropriate steps to continue to function and provide the needed testing services.

Thank you for your time and attention regarding the importance of the commercial environmental testing industry during this COVID-19 pandemic. ACIL continues to be an active and experienced resource for you and your Agency. Please do not hesitate to call upon me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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