



March 7, 2013

Laura Kammin
Pollution Prevention Program Specialist
Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program
University of Illinois
382 NSRC, MC-635
1101 West Peabody Dr.
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Ms. Kammin:

Illinois American Water is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to more than 1.2 million people. An important part of our commitment to our customers is protecting our precious water resources. Preventing the flushing of pharmaceuticals helps to protect both our watersheds and the communities we serve.

Illinois American Water, a member of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Medication Education Disposal Solutions task force, works with Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal (P²D²) Program, communities and environmental leaders to place pharmaceutical drop boxes at convenient locations so residents can easily dispose of their unwanted medications. Collected medications are destroyed through incineration.

The P²D² Program used by Illinois American Water was developed by Pontiac High School Township students and their teacher Mr. Paul Ritter. The program is recognized by Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, Illinois EPA and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as a model for all pharmaceutical disposal programs. Through this program thousands of pounds of unwanted medications have been collected and properly disposed.

To date, Illinois American Water has helped set up 29 pharmaceutical disposal programs across the state, including two programs in Champaign County. These programs were created in partnership with Carle Rx to collect non-controlled substances. We are pleased to expand this outreach by joining Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, P²D² Program, University of Illinois Police Department, Urbana Police Department, Champaign Police Department, and other community partners in developing a collection program for Champaign and Urbana that can legally accept controlled substances, the drugs which are most commonly misused and abused.

Illinois American Water has pledged \$2,000 to Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant to help support start up costs of the Champaign-Urbana Area Medicine Take-Back Program. We are strong supporters of this project and encourage the Student Sustainability Committee to consider providing funding that will help make the University of Illinois campus location a successful part of this new program.

Sincerely,

Karen Cotton
External Affairs Manager
Illinois American Water