

September 16, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Enhanced U.S. Global Leadership and Investment in Global Water Security

ETTAC Recommendation 2025-5

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee (ETTAC) is a federally established committee whose purpose is to advise on the policies and procedures of the U.S. government that affect exports of environmental technology, goods and services. This includes small to large businesses, trade associations and thought leaders.

In this capacity the ETTAC is writing to urge enhanced U.S. leadership and investment in global water security—an issue that directly benefits American business, diplomacy, and economic resilience. At no time in our history has smart, modern, resilient water infrastructure been more important to economic growth and national security in the U.S. and around the world. More than \$7 trillion is required to meet global water and wastewater infrastructure investment needs.¹

Expansion of stable and secure water systems at home and abroad reduces economic volatility, prevents migration driven by water scarcity, and strengthens global food security and supply chain resilience. For American companies, this presents new opportunities to expand into international markets with cutting-edge technologies and innovations—such as smart irrigation, water recycling, and AI-driven infrastructure—boosting exports and job creation here at home.

Global water cooperation advances U.S. strategic and national security interests. By leading water-focused partnerships, we promote peace, trust, and stability in transboundary regions—all while amplifying our engagement, international credibility, and opportunities for commercial diplomacy. Expanding access to clean drinking water in regions with the greatest needs strengthens U.S. foreign policy and economic interests.

Furthermore, water resilience is essential to building healthy communities both globally and domestically. Investments that support clean water access reduce disease, improve education outcomes, and fortify resilience—all of which reduce the need for emergency humanitarian aid and stabilize regions prone to disruption, including our southern border.

¹ [World Bank Document](#)

We urge you to:

- Champion U.S. water technology exports through trade missions, innovation programs, and multilateral and bilateral water forums.
- Engage the State Department and counterparts in other development assistance and finance agencies to prioritize water cooperation and commercial diplomacy in bilateral foreign policy and trade initiatives.
- Convene the interagency community together with the private sector and other stakeholders to provide feedback to the State Department in developing an updated Global Water Strategy.²
- Support global water infrastructure projects aligned with U.S. commercial interests and capabilities.
- Include water and other environmental technologies to receive prioritized support from the Department of Commerce under the American AI Exports Program to meet the goals of AI Action Plan.
- Promote public-private-partnerships that bring American expertise and financing to communities in need by encouraging private sector funding sources to co-invest.
- Invite U.S. water treatment and water technology companies to join policy makers' visits to foreign countries to promote and support US based solutions providers.
- Launching a new "Innovation Workstream" for deployment at the 2026 UN Water Conference, which would bring a strong U.S. private-sector delegation, including start-ups and venture-backed innovators, to showcase American-made solutions.
- Launch a U.S. Water Innovation Forum under State Department leadership to guide U.S. government and private-sector engagement with international institutions.

Providing safe drinking water is not only an environmental concern—it is an economic strategic, and national security imperative. Strengthening U.S. leadership in this arena will reinforce our international competitiveness, prevent conflicts related to access to water, and ensure resilience in communities worldwide.

² <https://www.globalwaters.org/2022-global-water-strategy>
<https://www.unwater.org/news/summary-proceedings-un-2023-water-conference>

Thank you for your attention and your continued commitment to advancing America's leadership in global prosperity and peace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clare Schulzki". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clare Schulzki
ETTAC Chair

cc: Secretary of State Marco Rubio
EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin
EXIM Acting President and Chairman James Cruse
DFC Acting CEO Dev Jagadesan
USTDA Acting Director Thomas R. Hardy