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350Pittsburgh  
Thomas Merton Center  
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July 18, 2018

Dear ALCOSAN Board,

350Pittsburgh supports a green-first approach to fixing our region's CSO problems. Pittsburgh will spend over \$2 BILLION on fixing these problems so we need this money to serve multiple goals. We want to 1) clean our rivers, 2) reduce flooding and basement backups, 3) revitalize our neighborhoods and 4) prepare for the larger rainfalls brought on by climate change.

ALCOSAN's GROW Program is a good first step to doing a green first approach to our region's CSO problems but because there is a cap on the size of projects the impact of the program is limited. We support removing this cap so that it can fund larger and more impactful projects that can significantly reduce the 9 BILLION gallons of sewage in our rivers. PWSA's Four Mile Run and Negley Run are two examples of these larger projects and they will cost upwards of \$30 - \$40 million.

Investment in these larger projects will not only help to clean our rivers but they will also transform the adjoining neighborhoods, help to mitigate flooding, stop basement backups and create good union jobs. Ratepayers in our region will be paying well over \$2 billion to fix our region's sewer system and as a region we cannot afford to waste that investment on new underground tunnels when we have the opportunity to optimize the current system and utilize green solutions that can clean our rivers and maximize community benefits like those listed above.

Within the next few years we will need to build a case to take to federal regulators to prove that large scale green stormwater infrastructure is working here, and that building more of it will be as effective as the traditionally engineered solutions in the consent decree. This means that we have no time to waste; **we need to invest in large scale, scientifically based green infrastructure projects now**. Removing the cap on the GROW program is a crucial step that ALCOSAN can take immediately.

Sincerely yours,

350Pittsburgh Steering Committee

Kate Fissell	Wanda Guthrie
Fred Kraybill	Warwick Powell
Ron Reed	Elise Yoder
Peter Wray	