

## **Special Single Issue Edition: The Power of an Association Comes to Washington, DC**

### **Rural Water's Annual Washington Rally Commences on Tuesday:**

Representatives from small and rural communities from every state will be in Washington, DC to urge Congress to adopt federal policies that benefit small and rural communities' drinking water safety, wastewater quality, source protection, compliance, emergency response, security, training, and water infrastructure.

**Q) Why Is Rural Water Successful Every Year? A) The Power of An Association:** *"The power of this association results in a force that accomplishes objectives that no one person could accomplish on their own. In our case, we - all rural and small community people - have joined together to improve the welfare, the economy, the health, environment, and the living standards of rural Americans. We did that by providing drinking water and sanitation to rural people and communities. Our work, dedication, and leadership has allowed us to realize great accomplishments that would not have occurred without our associations. All of the power of this movement comes from you, the grassroots, all of our accomplishments come from you, and only by organizing together with a common purpose can we realized the power of an association."* [NRWA Past President Doug Anderton, 10/2014]

**This Year NRWA is Prioritizing Funding:** Specifically for Circuit Riders, Wastewater Technicians, USDA Grants & Loans, EPA Technical Assistance, and the State Revolving Funds ([NRWA's 2016 agenda](#)).

**Senator Wicker (MS), Senator Heitkamp (ND), Representative Wicker (MS) and Representative Tonko (NY) Team Up to Fix EPA Technical Assistance by Funding the Recently Passed Grassroots Rural and Small Community Technical Assistance Act:** These Members of Congress are circulating letters in the House and Senate to allow ALL Members of Congress to show their support for small and rural communities' water supplies ([Congressional letters](#)).

**NRWA Regulatory Policy Committee Convenes in Washington on Feb. 6:** As part of the Rally, the Regulatory Committee adopted a number of new policy positions for NRWA to promote. The committee adopted the following motions:

- Forward the Regulatory Committee's [October 2015 memorandum to the EPA Office of Water](#) to the new Congressional special panel appointed by the Speaker of the House to review federal regulations.

- Adding new regulatory policy successes to the list of agenda items that have resulted in [cost savings to the membership](#) including the strontium, perchlorate, and chromium regulations - along with the new lead monitoring changes.
- New NRWA initiative to have the Regulatory Committee review all NRWA related legislation in Congress at each meeting and take any adopted position of action ([NRWA Legislative Monitoring List](#)). Any Rural Water member can add any legislation to the active listing of NRWA relevant legislation by simply notifying the Regulatory Committee.

**Protecting the State Revolving Funds (SRFs):** Rural Water's position is to "*protect the SRFs*" such as protection from being diverting to the newly establish EPA water funding program called the Water Infrastructure and Innovation Act ([WIFIA](#)). The EPA Budget is to be released on Tuesday, and it is reported that it will include a funding request for WIFIA, a request to cut the clean water SRF by \$250 million, and a request to increase the drinking water SRF by \$158 million. The DWSRF has been cut 38% in the last six years and the CWSRF has been cut by 34% in the last six years. **WIFIA vs. the SRFs:** Does any community in your state think any EPA water infrastructure dollars that could be used to fund the state revolving funds should be used to fund WIFIA ([respond](#)).

**[National Rural Water Association](#)**

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