

Rural Water Issues Advisory [2/4/2019]

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(Special Single Issue Edition)

Rural Water Takes to Congress on February 5th to Exercise our [First Amendment](#) right in the United States Constitution to *Assemble and Petition*, and Present Requests to Congress Without Retribution: NRWA's annual [Rural Water Rally](#) takes place this week in Washington, DC. Your brothers and sisters in the rural water movement will spend the week in the Halls of Congress urging *all* Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to make rural water funding a priority in annual Congressional spending bills ([more](#)).

Each year, state rural water associations mobilize volunteer representatives from across the country to petition the federal government and Congress to support federal funding and policies that are most beneficial for small and rural communities. This is our strength. By having thousands of small community representatives organize together with a common message, and petitioning the national government and legislature, we can be heard with the greatest impact. Our success is directly related to our local volunteers' ability to be active and persuasive.

The U.S. Congress is responsible for many important rural water issues including: circuit rider and technical assistance funding, as well as water infrastructure funding programs at agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's state revolving fund and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. In addition to determining all federal funding, the Congress writes the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Farm Bill which authorize federal water policies and regulations.

NRWA's Board of Directors convenes each year to determine our priorities and positions on all relevant policy issues. However, in addition to identifying our policy priorities, we also must have an active grassroots connection with every Member of Congress because at any given moment, any Member of Congress can be in a key position to shape and craft new federal law. Everyone in the Rural Water movement is depending on each other to have such a strong grassroots presence with their Members of Congress as lawmakers assume positions of power and authority in Washington.

[National Rural Water Association](#)

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The National Rural Water Association is the country's largest public drinking water and sanitation supply organization with over 30,000 members. Safe drinking water and sanitation are generally recognized as the most essential public health, public welfare, and civic necessities.

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