

Rural Water Issues Advisory [5/20/2019]

Special Single Issue Edition: PFAS Issues in Congress

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to Convene Hearing on PFAS Legislation on Wednesday - Requests NRWA to Submit Testimony: Following one week after the House Energy and Commerce Committee PFAS hearing ([hearing video](#)), the Senate Committee [hearing](#) will examine recently introduced PFAS legislation from Senators Carper (DE), Stabenow (MI), Shaheen (NH), Gillibrand (NY), Capito (WV), etc.

Summary of Senate Legislation:

- [S. 638](#) (Senator Carper - DE): Requires EPA to designate PFAS as hazardous substances under the Superfund program.
- [S.950](#) (Senator Stabenow - MI): Requires USGS to perform a nationwide survey of PFAS to determine the concentration of PFAS in estuaries, lakes, streams, springs, wells, wetlands, rivers, aquifers, and soil.
- [S.1251](#) (Senator Shaheen - NH): Improves federal efforts to identify the public health effects of PFAS and expedites analysis of these chemicals and provides support and resources to states dealing with the health challenges posed by these potentially harmful materials. The bill directs the EPA to create a program to provide federal support and technical assistance to communities that have detected emerging contaminants in their water supply.
- [S.1372](#) (Senator Stabenow - MI): Encourages federal agencies to expeditiously enter into or amend cooperative agreements with states for removal and remedial actions to address PFAS contamination in drinking, surface, and ground water and land surface and subsurface strata.
- [S.1473](#) (Senator Gillibrand - NY): Requires EPA to set maximum contaminant levels for certain PFAS in two years.
- [S.1507](#) (Senator Capito - WV): Includes certain PFAS in the toxics release inventory.

NRWA Considering Emphasizing Key Message from Comments to EPA on PFAS to Senate: “*Resist a national SDWA MCL for PFAS and instead rely on alternative federal initiatives to assist communities dealing with PFAS contamination as opposed to regulating them* ([NRWA 11/21/18](#)).”

Vermont Imposes Tough PFAS Limits in Drinking Water: All public water systems must test below 20 parts per trillion starting December 1, the toughest limits in the nation under a bill signed by the Governor on May 16. If the five common PFAS (perfluorooctanoic acid [PFOA], perfluorooctane sulfonic acid [PFOS], perfluoroheptanoic acid [PFHpA], perfluorononanoic acid [PFNA], and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid [PFHxS]) are detected above 20 parts per trillion combined, the water system must provide clean water and issue a “do not drink” advisory. The state will also begin a testing program for PFAS in municipal sludge.