

Power of an Association in the U.S. Senate: On March 28, Arkansas Rural Water's Dennis Sternberg told Congress that small and rural communities rely on USDA water funding and it can't be replaced ([Senate Hearing video](#), see Sternberg and Senator Duckworth exchange at 55:40).

Rural Water House of Representatives' Support Letter Final Hours:

Representatives Hanabusa (HA) and Katko's (NY) rural water [Dear Colleague letter](#) will be open for additional cosigners until Tuesday. Current cosigners include: Representatives DelBene (WA), O'Halleran (AZ), Tonko (NY), McKinley (WV), Loeb (IA), Keating (MA), Welch (VT), Walz (MN), Hastings (FL), Heck (WA), Cleaver (MO), Kildee (MI), Speier (CA), Kihuen (NV), Soto (FL), Collins (NY), Larsen (CT), Maloney (NY), Tenney (NY), Bordallo (GU), Peterson (MN), Moulton (MA), Tsongas (MA), Kennedy (MA), Faso (NY), Ellison (MN), Shea Porter (NH), Bobby Scott (VA), McGovern (MA), Neal (MA), Gottheimer (NJ), Plaskett (VI), Vela (TX), Kelly (PA), Dingell (MI), Garamendi (CA), Lujan Grisham (NM), Clyburn (SC), Hartzler (MO), Kind (WI), Kuster (NH), Bustos (IL), Blumenauer (OR), and Gabbard (HA). New York and Mass. Rural Water are in the lead with six cosigners from each of their states.

NRWA Petitions EPA to Repeal Two Drinking Water Rules under President's New Executive Order ([NRWA, March 27](#)).

Kansas Rural Water Association Held their Annual Conference Last Week and Netted \$8,795 for WaterPac.

U.S. and Michigan Taxpayers Pay to Remove Flint Residents' Lead Lines – Flint Citizens Claim Victory: Under the settlement reached last week, the lead lines will be replaced at no cost to residents. About \$47 million for the project will come directly out of state coffers, and \$50 million will come from federal coffers. However, one resident-plaintiff continues to believe it is city policy that is at issue, saying "[we] forced a city to change out its pipes... We hope that our fight and our battle is a great example for other cities and states that are facing these same problems. When the government fails to uphold democracy and protect our rights to clean

water, we have to stand up and fight." The Natural Resources Defense Council said that in 2015, 18 million people in the United States got their water from systems that received federal lead violations that year ([Truth Out](#)).

NPR Goes to Rural Kansas Water Project to Find that “Rural Trump Voters Embrace The Sacrifices That Come With Support”: *“Some of President Trump's proposed spending cuts would cripple programs that benefit communities full of his rural supporters, but at least in Strong City, Kansas, some say they are ready ‘to bleed a little bit.’ Trump's proposed budget aims at killing the program that threw a lifeline to the town's water system ([NPR](#)).”*

NRWA Regulatory Committee Member Cautions Against EPA's New Strategic Initiative on Public Notification of Lead Monitoring Results from Independent Entities that Trigger such Utility Public Notification: Maryland Rural Water Association's George Hanson participated in a recent EPA forum on new requirements mandating that "once the EPA receives data indicating that a household has drinking water levels that exceed EPA's Lead Action Level (0.015 mg/L), public water systems must notify and provide information to homes and communities under [EPA's Draft Strategic Plan](#). These notifications are in addition to those currently required under the Lead and Copper Rule." Hanson commented, *"So anyone can create a test that anyone can submit to EPA and that triggers the utility into mandatory notification of, at least, the house where the sample was taken. Just start imagining scenarios where this could get out of control."*

Global Water Perspective:

- Drought in **Somalia, South Sudan, Nigeria and Yemen:** *"Then the water in the village well began to disappear, turning cloudy, then red, then slime-green, but the villagers kept drinking it. That was all they had. Now on a hot, flat, stony plateau outside Baidoa, thousands of people pack into destitute camps, many clutching their stomachs, some defecating in the open, others already dead from a cholera epidemic ([NY Times](#)).”*

- PBS reports **Bangladesh's** leather industry exposes workers and children to toxic hazards. Every day, 21,000 cubic meters of untreated tannery wastewater is dumped into the Buriganga River that runs through Dhaka, one of the world's most densely populated cities ([PBS video](#)).
- **Columbia**: Over 200 dead after rivers overflow, toppling homes. Heavy rains sent floodwaters, mud and debris surging through homes in the city around midnight Friday. That left the streets covered Saturday morning in thick sand, mud and tree limbs from the rivers and forest that surround the community. There was little drinking water and no power which forced authorities to suspend the search and rescue effort during the night ([TV news](#)).
- As an alternative to a massive regionalization scheme, the **Portuguese** president has approved a new water taxation measure designed to subsidize water and wastewater in rural areas. Proceeds will be ringfenced "to compensate the higher costs incurred by multi-municipal water systems in areas of low population density ([news](#))."
-

National Rural Water Association

Contact: Mike Keegan, Policy Analyst <keegan@ruralwater.org>
(Washington, DC)