

House Passes Bill to Rein in Federal Regulations: On January 5th, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 26, the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act. The bill would give Congress up to 70 legislative days to vote to approve major federal rules with an annual economic “impact” of \$100 million or more issued by regulatory agencies. Without an affirmative vote by Congress, a major rule could not take effect under this legislation. With President-elect Trump set to take office on Jan. 20, Republicans in the House and Senate are more optimistic that the measure will be signed into law. A companion bill, S. 21, was introduced on January 4th.

Senate Chairman Vows ‘Fundamental Shift’ on Environment:

Wyoming’s Senator Barrasso formally takes the chair of Senate environmental committee while vowing regulatory rollback. The Senator said he will focus *“on measures that will remove red-tape and bureaucratic barriers to economic development while ensuring clean air, land, and water for every American. Over the past eight years, a runaway Environmental Protection Agency has time and again issued cumbersome regulations that have limited job creation and energy development.”*

Are EPA and Rural Issues Focus of New Presidency?: *“A growing source of rural Americans’ anger is the ever-tightening grip of environmental regulations that have less to do with the environment than they do liberal elites’ desire for social engineering and control over ordinary peoples’ lives... Working-class Americans are angry because of the increasing control exerted over their lives by the 1-percent, such as those running environmental pressure groups. Adding insult to injury is the sneering contempt liberal elites have for rural Americans. Natural resource-based communities are being slowly strangled of jobs, opportunities and hope by environmental pressure groups bent on turning rural America into an eco-themed museum... Alienating rural Americans and destroying their communities is self-defeating if the goal is environmental protection but not if the goal is social engineering. Rural Americans are looking for their voices to be heard and their concerns taken seriously by policymakers ([Think Tank](#)).”*

Scott Pruitt, President-elect Trump's Nominee is "Singled Out" by Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer for Extra Scrutiny ([Bloomberg](#)).

Georgia Rural Water Association Attends New Congressman's Swearing-in Ceremony: Jimmy Matthew was in Washington this week to celebrate his friend Congressman Drew Ferguson's (GA) swearing in

ceremony. Matthews is also closely monitoring the news that former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue is President-elect Trump's leading candidate to run the U.S. Department of Agriculture ([Newsweek](#)).

Update on EPA POTW Nutrient Survey: EPA notified NRW of proposed clarifications of its formerly mandatory survey of wastewater utilities ([EPA letter](#)).

Excessive Rain, Melting Snow May Cause Worst California Flooding Since 1997 ([Accuweather video](#)).

Four Million in Damascus without Water after Springs Targeted, say UN ([Reuters](#)).

Attack on Private Water in "The Hill": *"The New York Times' Paul Krugman termed it a 'privatization scam' and former Obama assistant Ronald Klain called it a 'massive corporate welfare plan...' Trump's plan could deepen the private industry's reach, prioritizing corporate profit over people's access to water... Dozens of U.S. municipalities have taken back public control of water systems they had formerly privatized. Finally, Trump's plan ignores the solutions that work — public investment and public control of our water systems. Since Philadelphia established the first public water system in 1801, the U.S. has achieved access for 99 percent of its population ([The Hill](#))."*

Bentonville Police Use Smart Water Meters As Evidence In Murder Investigation: Investigators believe the perpetrator cleaned up the murder scene because of the amount of water he used in a two-hour window ([more](#)).

U.S. Grid in 'Imminent Danger' From Cyber-Attack, DOE Study Says: The U.S. Energy Department says the electricity system "faces imminent danger" from cyber-attacks which are growing more frequent and sophisticated, but grid operators say they are already on top of the problem ([DOE](#)).

EPA Risk Management Plan Rule Becomes Candidate for Trump Repeal: On Dec 21, EPA announced its final rule updating its Risk Management Programs (RMP) facility safety regulation. NRW urged EPA to withdraw the rule because "it expands and increases the regulatory burden on local governments ([NRWA Comments](#))." The Environmental Justice Health Alliance (EJHA), part of a broad coalition of labor,

environmental and public interest groups that petitioned EPA to tighten oversight of facility safety, says, *“Any action to block or repeal these improved safety rules will put Americans in more danger, and undoubtedly at some point cost innocent people their lives.”* Because Trump will take office before the RMP rule takes effect, the new administration will have greater flexibility to simply not implement the rule.

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