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Senate Committee Passes Rural Water Clean Water Technical Assistance Bill, S. 518 ([U.S. Senate](#)).

Congress on Spring Break for Two Weeks: When they return, they'll have just five days to pass a new set of spending bills before an April 28 deadline, when existing government funding runs out. They hope to pass a bill that will fill out funding for the remainder of the fiscal year, which runs through September 30, or at the very least pass another short-term spending bill, known as a continuing resolution, to keep the government running at current funding levels.

Final Cosigners of Congressional Rural Water USDA Support Letter:

Representatives Hanabusa (HA) and Katko's (NY) rural water [Dear Colleague letter](#) was finalized last week. Cosigners include: Representatives DelBene (WA), O'Halleran (AZ), Tonko (NY), McKinley (WV), Loeb sack (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), Gabbard (HA), Rochester (DE), Lawrence (MI), Crawford (AR), Raskin (MD), Kilili Camacho Sablan (MP), Richmond (LA), Cramer (ND), Graves (MO), Chaffetz (UT), DeSaulnier (CA), Rouzer (NC), Adams (NC), Jones (NC), Butterfield (NC), Sewell (AL), and Cheney (WY).

NRWA Regulatory Committee Activity: To enhance communication and advocacy, the committee's new chairman, Paul Fulgham (UT), has scheduled a monthly conference call for the committee. The first conference call was held on March 28th. During the deliberations, the committee adopted the following six motions:

- 1 Draft statement to EPA clarifying NRWA's LCR position that compliance monitoring for the LCR should be taken with the distribution system (within the portion of the delivery system that is owned by the water utility, not within privately owned plumbing) – and that NRWA support in-home tap sampling; however, that should not be used for LCR compliance.
- 2 Approve draft letter to EPA nominating two drinking water regulations for reform under the "Presidential Executive Order on Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs."
- 3 Draft letter to EPA and Congress urging regulatory reform on all existing NRWA policy recommendations within the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and Clean Water Act including a new process for determining affordability/variances and identification of unreasonable risk to health levels.
- 4 Submit comments for NRWA Risk Management Plans under EPA's new open rulemaking comment period and include new emphasis on limiting chlorine gas threshold to not less than 800 pounds.
- 5 Craft letter to EPA urging the Agency to interpret the Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund to allow for eligibility of non-profit, member-owned (special districts) wastewater utilities.
- 6 Craft letter to EPA urging the Agency to reverse their Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rules (UCMRs) policy that changed public notification requirements under UCMR to apply to "detects" versus "risk levels" as had been defined in previous rules.

President Wants Two Billionaire Developers to Lead Infrastructure Plans: In a recent interview with the *New York Times*, the President said he wants Richard LeFrak and Steven Roth to lead a commission that will make decisions on infrastructure projects ([NYTimes](#)). The President said he plans to attach it to either a tax reform bill or a second try at a health care bill in an effort to make those bills easier to pass.

USGS Finds Neonicotinoids in Treated Drinking Water for the First Time in Iowa ([news](#)).

Supreme Will Not Delay Litigation on Waters of the U.S. Rule While

Trump EPA Rewrites the Rule ([news](#)).

Flint's Congressman Introduces Legislation to Lower EPA Lead Action Level to 5PPB: On Thursday, Congressman Dan Kildee (MI) introduced comprehensive legislation that would require an update to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) within nine months, including lowering the action level of lead permitted in drinking water from its current level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) to 10 ppb by 2020, and to 5 ppb by 2026 ([Rep. Kildee](#)).

Trailer Park Wins Best Water in Nebraska: Lexington trailer park wins best tasting water award – declared the best tasting in Nebraska at an annual conference of the Nebraska Rural Water Association ([news](#)).

"At Trump's EPA, Going to Work Can Be an Act of Defiance": *"It is very hard to be here right now," said a senior EPA official who has been with the agency for 30 years. Even Bill Ruckelshaus, who was appointed by Richard Nixon to be the first EPA chief and then recruited by Ronald Reagan to restore it when the public grew angry that clean air and water were slipping away on Reagan's watch, said he had never seen anything like the tumult the agency faced now. EPA employees have been heartened by the cookies some well-wishers have sent, including individual notes written by scores of Americans appreciative of their work and unhappy to see them under siege* ([LA Times](#))."

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