

Wyoming, Utah and Washington Rural Water Associations Change the Politics of WIFIA:

After Congressional contacts from [Washington](#), [Wyoming](#), [Utah](#) rural water associations, news reports are now mentioning that the [WIFIA fix](#) may not be included in the final Highway Bill being negotiated on Capitol Hill ([news](#)). *"Though the Senate included language in its version of the bill to remove the ban on tax-exempt financing in the WIFIA program, Shuster declined to include any water infrastructure provisions in the House version passed Oct. 22, preferring a clean bill without any non-transportation provisions (Water Policy Report, Nov. 2). WIFIA advocates say it is unlikely the funding fix will be included in the final transportation bill and have begun looking to other legislative avenues for the provision, such as a standalone bill that would strike the tax-exempt municipal provision from 2014 Water Reform & Redevelopment Act that authorized the program and a possible 2016 water resources reauthorization bill."* Thank you Washington, Utah and Wyoming rural water associations.

Speculation that Congress May Enact a New Law to Fix EPA

Technical Assistance on Tuesday: Congress returns from break this week. This Tuesday will be the first opportunity for the House of Representatives to consider [S. 611](#), "The Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act."

People Willing to Pay \$6 Billion to Implement Chesapeake Bay TMDL:

A new EPA study concludes that residents value improved water quality in the Chesapeake Bay at up to more than \$6 billion per year ("[A Stated Preference Study of the Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Lakes](#)"). EPA conducted the survey by asking residents of 17 states within the Chesapeake watershed and the District of Columbia whether and how much they would be willing to pay each year to preserve or improve specific aspects of water quality in the bay, such as water clarity and fish populations.

White House Releases Formal Rulemaking Schedule: The fall [Unified Agenda](#), released late last week, reveals the Administration's latest plans for regulations currently in the works at agencies across the federal government. The EPA's planned new water regulations include: Review of the Ground Water Rule ([more](#)), Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System General Permit Remand Rule ([more](#)), Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4 ([more](#)), and Management Standards for Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals ([more](#)).

Water Lobbyists Hacked on Legislative Strategy Conference Call: An

audio recording of a strategy session by major trade association lobbyists includes a discussion on how the lobbyists plan to have Congress repeal the WOTUS rule by the end of the year ([audio of call](#)).

Two Persons in Santa Paula (CA) Plead Guilty in November 2014

Chemical Explosion at the Santa Clara Waste Water Plant: A volatile mixture of domestic waste and chemical sodium chlorite led to the rear of a vacuum truck exploding ([more](#)).

EPA Video to "Reduce Wasted Food This Holiday Season": More than 96% of the food we throw away ends up in landfills, producing methane, a potent greenhouse gas which contributes to climate change ([video](#)).

"Water is Safe to Drink Despite EPA Warning": People in Auburn (KS) received a warning about their water and violations for standards for maximum levels of haloacetic acids. The public notice was issued after further monitoring had indicated that the levels were within acceptable limits ([more](#)).

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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Archives: *past editions of this newsletter are available on the internet ([link](#)).*

5 Attachments

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Date: Mon, Nov 23, 2015 at 1:41 PM
 To: "Winfred, Matt"

I am aware that Congressman Larson is in a House-Senate Conference Committee which is attempting to finalize a comprehensive transportation bill before the end of the year. From my understanding the committee is considering a provision to allocate more funds to the State Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (SIFIA) in the amount of \$100M. AIFIA will be used to support the SIFIA's major RFA and also allow to support small community projects, state large community projects - but because SIFIA supports projects with the greatest total over projects that are in less need (income of financial and public health).

WIFIA proposals have told Congress that "WIFIA is for projects that fall outside the scope of the SIFIA because of their size and cost." However, the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (i.e. the SIFIA authorization) does not limit eligibility for funding based on size or cost. Both Health, Public Utilities and Tax and Fiscal Public Health have advised CDFIF users for FY15. WIFIA does not contain any language regarding to communities that are rural for federal approved mandate compliance, high household economic impact, and public health. Rather, it allows for limited federal water subsidies to communities the SIFIA targeting to the most needy water projects and for users in communities with more ability to afford the project. This will result in federal water infrastructure subsidies moving from states with greatest need to communities of low density and low median household income states with less need.

The SIFIA also states to direct water infrastructure funding to state priorities. In contrast, WIFIA advocates the states' preferences and allows Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to award the funding.

I would appreciate if you could share our thoughts with the Commission as we see him to not



errow larsen

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- **IDEALWAYS KEY, WHO KNOWS WHO'S BEST FOR WORDING, YOU, DEBATE ADVISORY, OUR REVISIONS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE** (10/11/15) (1) (1)
- **Maintaining clarity about the state existing funds (SEF) availability to large water projects.** WIFIA proposals have to describe "WIFIA is for projects that fall outside the scope of the SIFIA because of their size and cost." The federal Safe Drinking Water Act (i.e. the SIFIA authorization) does not limit eligibility for funding based on size or cost. New York City is budgeting state funding for 25 SIFIA projects this year. Last project costs are over \$100 million, and one project cost is over \$1 billion (10/15). This amount accounts for NY's economic projects. However, large communities receive the majority of SIFIA funds. The SIFIA does not give preferential treatment to small communities. Rather, they target federal water subsidies to the projects with the greatest need (income of financial and public health need).
- **Providing advisory input to WIFIA.** WIFIA does not contain any language to communities need to meet the federal authorized mandate compliance, high household economic impact, and public health. Rather, it allows for limited federal water subsidies to communities the SIFIA targeting to the most needy water projects and for users in communities with more ability to afford the project. This will result in federal water infrastructure subsidies moving from states with greatest need to communities of low density and low median household income to states with less need.
- **Providing greater delineating the funding allocations to the SIFIA.** The SIFIA also states to direct water infrastructure funding to state priorities. In contrast, WIFIA advocates the states' preferences and allows Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to award the funding. Regarding and the overarching capacity of our state local governments support dedicating federal water subsidies to the SIFIA (the SIFIA) and WIFIA (the EPA) (10/11/15) (1) (1)



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Preview attachment Letter to Hatch.pdf



November 23, 2015

The Honorable Senate Orrin Hatch
 501 East James Office Building
 Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Senator Hatch,

Please consider following for House of Representatives' inclusion of funding for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) in the reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The funding that would be applied to WIFIA would be better used and that better used if it were included in the appropriation for the EPA State Revolving Fund (SRF). The SRF is administered by the Utah Division of Drinking Water and its Governor appointed and legislatively established Drinking Water Board. Utah's interest is always been to make sure of what decisions such as what project financing cost or other state level rather than the federal.

In spirit of fairness and mutualism in the country, the SIFIA is available to water systems of all sizes and populations. It is in the goal of the SIFIA and the state primary agencies under the guidance with the greatest need to the benefit. Again, this is best determined at the state level.

Thank you for your attention to this matter which will have a direct impact on Utah's



Letter to Hatch.pdf

Preview attachment wifia iepa

Opponents of a novel water-infrastructure financing program are urging a group of Republican senators from rural states to oppose efforts to include in sweeping transportation authorization legislation a provision eliminating a tax on the use of tax-exempt funds in the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program.

Supporters of the provision say the current tax on using tax-exempt financing to meet WIFIA matching requirements will hamstring the program, which will provide for federal federal loans without guarantees for up to 49 percent of large water infrastructure and water reuse projects. Loans will be responsible for covering the remaining 51 percent.

But the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) has long opposed WIFIA, saying the program will undermine existing funds for EPA's traditional water infrastructure funding program, the state revolving funds (SRF).

And in a Nov. 18 letter to staff to Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK), Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Lisa Murkowski (AK), Deb Fischer (NE) and John Boozman (AR), NRWA's Michael Mize Klinger notes that those lawmakers are likely "seriously impacted" by the inclusion of the so-called WIFIA tax in the transportation bill. Related documents are available on www.frankopa.com. (ENR.com)

If House-Senate conference committee is currently debating a final transportation authorization package, seeking to get it passed before current transportation funding runs out Jan. 5, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA), who is also chairing the conference committee, has set a goal of producing a bill by Nov. 30.

Though the Senate includes language in its version of the bill to remove the tax on tax-exempt financing in the WIFIA program, Shuster's draft bills include any water infrastructure provisions.



wifia iepa

Preview YouTube video Reduce Wasted Food This Holiday Season

