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Tell Me Your Problems: The U.S. Senate is planning to consider a massive water bill, S. 2848 - the 2016 Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA), in June. To ensure the small and rural community water provisions in the bill are retained in the final bill, we need to make the case for rural and small communities by demonstrating the need for water funding to Congress. Specifically, we need pictures of your problem (i.e. examples of aging, antiquated or deteriorating water infrastructure that needs replacing – and where the community is struggling to afford the cost of necessary water projects). If you know of a community in your state struggling to afford a needed project, please send us its name and we will contact its officials. For example, Evergreen Rural Water Association Circuit Rider Derek Zock discovered a wood stave in the City of Morton (WA) while searching for leaks a week ago ([photo](#)). The city has mostly old steel water mains and has more than 50% water loss. See the full article of this effort and analysis of S. 2848 on NRWA's WaterPro Community website ([link](#)).

NRWA's Regulatory Committee (Your Peers Standing Up for You):

The committee met last week in Washington DC and approved a motion to draft an association statement to the U.S. Senate raising concerns with a provision of [H.R. 4470](#), “Safe Drinking Water Act Improved Compliance Awareness Act.” It is likely a version of this bill will pass by the end of the summer. The bill was crafted in response to the Flint Michigan lead crisis and passed by the House of Representatives in February. The problematic provision is below. Please contact us if you have any comments on the provision:

"If the Environmental Protection Agency develops or receives, from a source other than the State or the public water system, data, which meets the requirements of section 1412(b)(3)(A)(ii), indicating that the drinking water of a person served by a public water system contains a level of lead that exceeds a lead action level promulgated under section 1412, the

Administrator shall require an appropriate employee of the Agency to forward such data to the owner or operator of the public water system and to the State in which the exceedance occurred within a time period established by the Administrator. If an owner or operator of a public water system receives a notice under clause (i), the owner or operator, within a time period established by the Administrator, shall disseminate to affected persons the information described in subparagraph (C)."

Tropical Storm Colin Preparation: Colin passed through Florida last Tuesday ([more](#)). Water utilities largely survived the storm without incident. However, Florida Rural Water Association (FRWA) was in full preparation mode on Monday. FRWA Executive Director Gary Williams provided a video-teleconference update on preparations late Monday, June 6th ([Williams' video update](#)).

Environmentalists Oppose Montana's 20 Year Variances to Numeric Nutrient Criteria: Environmentalists are asking a federal district court to vacate EPA's approval of Montana water quality standards that allow general variances charging that the novel variance is not supported by science and is arbitrary, capricious and an abuse of discretion under the Administrative Procedure Act. Montana's approach has been closely watched by NRWA because it allows for flexibility that could be used in other states. Earthjustice and Upper Missouri Waterkeeper lawyers have filed in federal district court charging the variance fails to fulfill the basic purpose of water quality criteria because it does not describe the desired or achievable water quality condition.

Hardball Water Politics: Arkansas Senator Boozman has blocked Senate approval of Jane Nishida to be an assistant administrator at the Environmental Protection Agency over concerns about a TMDL modeling issue in the Illinois River Watershed.

EPA Webinar on "Contaminants of Emerging Concern in Source and Treated Drinking Water: This presentation will discuss findings from an EPA and USGS study on June 29th ([more](#)).

IRS Proposal to "Clarify" Definition of a "Political Subdivision" for Determining Eligibility for Issuing Tax-exempt Bonds: The February 23 IRS proposal includes a new test that requires a political subdivision to be an entity that serves a public purpose and is "governmentally controlled." Some water utilities are concerned about meeting the "public purpose" definition since many bonds that are issued by water districts can often benefit private property owners.

Help Us Make EPA E-reporting for Bio-solids Compliance Better: EPA is looking for volunteers to test their new e-reporting compliance process. If you would like to work with EPA on behalf of small and rural communities to test the new reporting systems, [please contact us](#).

Sewage Released in Rio de Janeiro Waters Result in Drug Resistant Bacteria in Olympic Venues: Scientists have found dangerous drug-resistant "super bacteria" off beaches in Rio de Janeiro that will host Olympic swimming events ([Reuters News](#)).

National Rural Water Association

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