

**State Associations Press for EPA Funding Reform:** At the annual rural water conference in Oklahoma City this weekend, numerous state association representatives voiced frustration with the current EPA technical assistance funding problem. Over the last four years, EPA has used its administrative discretion to reduce the amount of technical assistance available to small and rural communities ([more](#)). To correct the situation, rural water friendly Senators and Congressmen have introduced legislation to limit EPA discretion with the force of law ([S. 611 & H.R. 2853](#)). The legislation has passed the Senate and the Republican leadership of the House Energy and Commerce committee wants to pass the bill in committee and then by the full House of Representatives soon after. To accomplish this, they need bipartisan support from the committee's Democratic leadership (Congressmen Tonko, New York and Pallone, New Jersey) to pass the bill without modification. This weekend, state association representatives supported a nationwide campaign to have their states' Democratic Congressmen urge Congressman Tonko to support passage of H.R. 2853 immediately and without modification.

**NRWA Policy Committee Adopts Ambitious Agenda:** The NRWA Regulatory Committee convened this weekend in Oklahoma City and voted to support a number of new national policy reform initiatives and join the legal effort to contest the recent EPA Waters of the U.S. Rule ([WOTUS](#)). The committee consists of John O'Connell (NYRWA), Jim Mackie (NJRWA), George Crum (PRWA), Gary Williams (FRWA), Bob Freudenthal (TRWA), Daniel Wilson (NRWA), George Hanson (MdRWA), and Wilmer Melton (NCRWA). The committee voted to forward a statement to EPA with 14 concerns on the following water policy issues: Senator Wicker Tier 2 public notification, *de minimis* violations, EPA enforcement policy, total organic carbon percentage removal, point of use technology availability, EPA making water treatment plant location data more readily available, source water protection, cybersecurity implementation in water utilities, unregulated contaminant monitoring, new regulations for finished water storage facilities, watershed pollution trading policy, affordability, environmental justice, and lead and copper rule revisions ([full statement](#)). Additionally, the committee voted to craft an *Amicus Curiae* brief on behalf of NRWA and immediately file it in the appropriate federal court contesting EPA's WOTUS rule. NRWA is currently the only water utility association supporting a legal challenge to the EPA rule.

**New York Rural Water to Go Grassroots:** NYRWA is planning this week to initiate a grassroots campaign to urge Congressman Tonko to support

immediate passage of H.R. 2853. NYRWA will activate all their members in the Congressman's district to advocate on behalf of all small and rural communities.

**Congress to Pass Short-term Extension to Fiscal Year to Dec:** "There will be no government shutdown at the end of the month," according to House Speaker John Boehner. The Senate is expected to pass a continuing resolution next week that will pass the House ([WashPost](#)).

**Administrator McCarthy Signs NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule:** The final rule provides authorized NPDES programs with more flexibility for implementation, providing more time for the transition from paper to electronic reporting and more flexibility in how they can grant electronic reporting waivers to facilities ([more](#)).

**EPA Webcast on Low-Cost Modifications for Wastewater Utility Nutrient Reduction, Oct. 15** ([more](#)).

**Dane County (WI) Offers \$1 Million to Help Local Communities Construct Stormwater Management Facilities to Capture Phosphorus-laden Debris** ([more](#)).

**Peanut Executive in Salmonella Case Faces Life:** In what experts called the first food-poisoning trial of American food processors, a top executive was convicted of knowingly shipping salmonella-tainted peanut butter from his plant in Blakely, Georgia. Investigators found a leaky roof, roaches and evidence of rodents, all ingredients for brewing salmonella. They also uncovered e-mails and records showing food confirmed by lab tests to contain salmonella was shipped to customers anyway ([more](#)).

**Spectrum (UT), Residents and 100 Businesses Under Boil Alert for Fecal Coliform Bacteria** ([more](#)).

**[National Rural Water Association](#)**