

**"Of the Billions of Dollars Provided to EPA, Small and Rural Communities see the Most Benefit from the Small Portion Directed to Rural Water Technical Assistance":** Kirby Mayfield (Mississippi Rural Water Association) appeared before Congress last week on your behalf to urge passage of S. 611, the bill to fix the EPA funding problems (see [26:13 in hearing video](#)). Members of Congress explained how they are planning to pass the bill in short order.

**NRWA Standing Up for the SRF:** The House Transportation Committee passed a comprehensive infrastructure bill that does not include the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) provision. Many large water utility associations advocated for the WIFIA provision in the bill ([more](#)). The provision supported by WIFIA allows federal water infrastructure subsidies to circumvent eligibility of your states' most needy communities ([more](#)). NRWA had cautioned the House of Representatives not to include the WIFIA provision and urged that the new federal funds could be better spent for water infrastructure by allowing the interest on a U.S. Department of Agriculture guaranteed water infrastructure loan to be tax-exempt. This would ensure that the new federal subsidies (or tax breaks) are directed to community water projects that are in the greatest need and most limited in financial resources. The Senate bill included the WIFIA provision in their version of the transportation bill sponsored by Senator Inhofe ([more](#)).

**Allowing Tier 2 Public Notices to be delivered on the Internet:** After testifying in the House of Representatives, MsRWA met with its Senate representatives about legislation allowing [e-delivery](#) of Tier 2 notices. If your Senator is interested in sponsoring such legislation, please contact [us](#).

**St. Mary River Watershed Association's (MD) New 3 Dimensional Oyster Reefs:** This is the first fully 3 dimensional reef to be reconstructed in the Chesapeake Bay since over 218,000 acres of the historic reefs were mined to the bottom by the early 1900's. The reef will serve as a demonstration model for restoring the water quality and ecology of the Bay by restoring its keystone algae filtration system.

**Michigan Regulator Admits Mistake in Flint's Drinking Water Lead Contamination:** The state regulator issued a statement to address the mishandling of federal protocol for corrosion control ([more](#)).

**American Water Acquires Five Penn. Water Systems:** *"We continue to expand our footprint in the wastewater space,"* said the company's

president ([more](#)).

**Senate to Take up Cybersecurity Bill this Week:** The [Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act](#) (CISA) will offer legal liability protections to companies, including water utilities, to encourage them to share data on hacking threats with the government.

**Okmulgee's (OK) Month Long Boil Order for E. Coli:** *"We have to go by DEQ's guidelines to get off of this," said Water District 4 Board Vice-Chairman Kenneth Flanary. "Basically, the chlorination isn't as strong as it used to be. By the time it reaches the end of our line, it's low ([more](#))."*

**Dr. Water Speaks at New York Times Water Conference:** See keynote from Dr. Peter Gleick ([YouTube](#)).

### **National Rural Water Association**

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