

Rural Water Policy Advisory [11/6/2017]

Republican Tax Bill Terminates Private Activity Bonds and Advances Refunding Bonds After this Year: The tax reform package also terminates ALL 501(c)(3) organizations' tax-exempt bonds. While the tax-exemption for municipal bonds would not be altered, the desirability of municipal bonds as an investment would be diminished somewhat because the threshold for the 39.6% income tax rate would climb. House Republican leaders have said the Ways and Means Committee will start deliberations on the bill on Monday and may take several days for consideration ([news](#)).

NRWA Engages on Mandatory Consolidation Provision in H.R. 3387, Drinking Water System Improvement Act of 2017: Thanks to the New York Rural Water Association and their long-term friendship with Congressman Paul Tonko, Ranking Member on the House's Safe Drinking Water Act [subcommittee](#), NRWA was able to brief the subcommittee on Friday about small and rural community concerns with the bill's mandatory consolidation [provision](#). The provision would allow for a state regulator to require a municipality to transfer ownership of its water utility to another utility, including a private water company, over the objection of the community. Any comments on the legislation are welcome. If you have a Congressman who is concerned about this provision and willing to raise concerns in Congress, please [contact us](#).

NRWA Engages U.S. Senate Environmental Committee on Privatization and Consolidation: NRWA was invited to participate in another stakeholders forum on Friday with representatives of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's minority staff. The forum was organized by private water industry interests to discuss expanding EPA authority into the operation and management of small and rural community water utilities in order to drive their consolidation. NRWA (invited by the Senate staff) was able to explain that there are currently no impediments to consolidation that require new EPA authority to remedy, that hundreds of such water utility regionalizing actions are occurring each year, that state regulators currently have discretion in administering fines and enforcement actions, etc. One larger rural water district participated in support of the private water groups, raising concerns over local government control and management of small water utilities.

Congress Looking to Extend Fiscal Year 2018 Continuing Resolution Until Next Year ([The Hill](#)).

USDA Announces Rural Development State Directors ([Announcement & List](#)).

Republicans and Democrats Watch Tuesday's Virginia Governor's Race as an Indicator of Their Message's Popularity and the 2018 Mid-terms ([CNN](#)).

Portland Exceeds Lead Action Level With No Lead Service Lines: The city tested water from a sampling of 134 homes, and more than 13 percent exceeded the state limit of 15 parts per billion - the third time in five years that Portland exceeded the action level ([The Oregonian](#)).

EPA Summary Report of the Peer Review Meeting for Proposed Modeling Approaches for Health-Based Benchmark for Lead in Drinking Water: The EPA report summarizes the discussions at the peer review meeting held earlier this year where the reviewers considered questions related to a potential health-based benchmark for lead in drinking water ([EPA](#)).

EPA Overhauled its External Advisory Boards Friday With a New Policy Barring Participation from People Receiving EPA Grants on Any of the EPA Advisory Committees: The intent of the new policy is to reduce conflicts of interest. NRWA supports the local government exemption in the policy - state, local and tribal government representatives get an exemption from the ban on grantees. EPA

Administrator is pushing to encourage participation from state and local government representatives and people with diverse viewpoints. Several scientists, Democrats and environmentalists sharply criticized the move, saying it was meant to exclude the most qualified experts in the fields.

NRWA Historical Participation on EPA Advisory Panels:

EPA Panel

[EPA National Drinking Water Advisory Council](#)
[DHS Water Sector Coordinating Council](#)
[EPA Lead and Copper Rule Rulemaking](#)
EPA Nutrient Removal and Secondary Technologies
Questionnaire Workgroup
National Lead Service Line Removal Collaborative
[EPA Arsenic Affordability & POU Review](#)
[EPA Small Entities Panel for Lead & Copper Rule Review](#)
[EPA Local Government Lead and Copper Review](#)
[EPA Small Entities Review Panel for Perchlorate Rule](#)
[DHS EPA Critical Infrastructure Partnership Council](#)
[EPA Implementation of e-NPDES rule](#)
[EPA Climate Ready Water Utility Working Group](#)
[EPA Sustainability Workgroup](#)
[EPA Total Coliform Rule Working Group](#)
[EPA Water Security Working Group](#)
[EPA Affordability Review Panel](#)
[EPA Disinfection Byproducts Rule Stage II](#)
[EPA Disinfection Byproducts Rule Stage I](#)

NRWA Representative

Wilmer Melton
Steve Wear & Charles Hilton
John Sasur
Wayne Graham, Chris Groh, Susan
Poe, Jamie Hope and Frank Stuemke
George Hanson
George Hanson
John Sasur & George Hanson
George Hanson
Nominated: John Sasur & Mel Aust
David Baird & George Hanson
Paul Brayton
Paul Whittemore
Mel Aust
David Baird & Paul Whittemore
Doug Anderton
John Trax & Mike Keegan
Randy Van Dyke & Rodney Tart
Roy Held

President Trump Claims Most Regulatory Cuts of Any President: *“In the history of our country, no president, during their entire term, has cut more regulations than we’ve cut,”* President Trump told Republican lawmakers at the White House on Nov. 2.

Yemen’s Cholera Epidemic Continues, Millions of Yemenis Struggling to Access Water ([The Guardian](#)).

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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