

# Rural Water Policy Advisory [3/26/2018]

**Congress Passes and President Signs Massive Increase in Rural Water Funding:** On Friday, President Trump signed the \$1.3 trillion omnibus spending bill ([H.R. 1625](#)) into law. The new initiatives and funding increases in the law actually make this legislation a new national water infrastructure program. NRWA supports the law's recognition of existing federal funding instruments for the new water infrastructure funding because they target funding to communities with the greatest merit (i.e. need). Creating new programs has the potential to circumvent the current needs-based criteria and allow funding to move to more affluent communities (NRWA [Senate testimony](#)).

## **New Funding for Rural Infrastructure in Omnibus:**

- \$1,060,263,000 for USDA [Water & Waste Disposal](#) loan & grant program (\$571,190,000 last year).
- \$40,000,000 for USDA [Rural Water Technical Assistance](#) (\$20,000,000 last year).
- \$1,693,887,000 for [Clean Water State Revolving Funds](#) (\$1,393,887,000 last year).
- \$1,163,233,000 for [Drinking Water State Revolving Funds](#) (\$863,233,000 last year)
- \$20,000,000 for EPA "Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities," [Section 2014, PL 114-322](#) (\$0.0 last year).

**The Power of an Association:** NRWA has been actively petitioning Congress for the past year to protect funding for the USDA rural water initiatives from the proposed budget request for elimination - and to direct any new federal water infrastructure funding to the existing federal initiatives (USDA and the SRFs) that target the funding to communities with the greatest need. Last week's enactment of the of the Omnibus Bill marks the success of the campaign and demonstrates the power of an association where everything NRWA accomplishes, from securing many millions of dollars in technical assistance funding, to reducing the regulatory burden from federal rules and successfully petitioning Congress for billions of dollars in water infrastructure grants each year, only happens because of your grassroots involvement. Our grassroots network is our greatest strength, and only by all of us acting together can we manifest that strength effectively in support of our policy priorities. By organizing together with a common agenda, we can accomplish what none of us could achieve on our own.

**Campaign to Save USDA Water Funding 2017 Documentary ([video](#)).**

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### **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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