

Rural Water Policy Advisory [4/9/2018]

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Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Asks Arkansas Rural Water Association's Dennis Sternberg to Testify on S. 2364:

The bill would amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (WIFIA) to provide states with opportunities to receive loans under WIFIA that support drinking water and clean water state revolving funds (SRFs). The committee initially scheduled the hearing for this week, but notified Sternberg that the hearing will be delayed due to a conflict with the chairman. NRWA supports the bill. The bill's authorization for states to accept WIFIA funding improved the current WIFIA program. State programs target federal water funding (including WIFIA) because the SRFs give preference to projects with the most urgent economic and public health need – as well as give preference to states' priorities. The EPA WIFIA program allows federal water subsidies to circumvent the SRFs' needs-targeting policy and awards funding to projects with less need and corporate water utilities.

Environmental Justice Cautions Public on WIFIA's Merits ([Twitter](#)).

Criticism of EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Dominates News; President Tweets Support on Saturday Night ([Politico](#)).

Mandatory Consolidation: Senators on the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act committee are crafting water legislation to authorize a new federal water infrastructure program. Last week, NRWA was asked for comments on a House of Representatives' committee-passed provision in [H.R. 3387](#) to allow for [mandatory consolidation](#) of certain public water systems. We are optimistic that we can persuade the Senators to exclude the provision in any senate legislation.

Flint Resident Refuses to Pay for Water that Made Her Family Sick; Owes \$1,983.59 in Water Bills; Case of Bottled Water Used to Flush Toilet ([YouTube](#)).

Flint in Lead Rule Compliance; No More Free Bottled Water: Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder announced Friday that testing has showed the levels of lead in the city's water are below the federal limit and the water's quality is "well within the standards." The Flint water crises' notable pediatrician, Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, said, "This is wrong. Until all lead pipes are replaced, state should make available bottled water and filters to Flint residents." The free bottled water program was part of a \$450 million state and federal aid package. Many residents still don't trust the water. One resident said, "I don't trust the water, everything that me and my kids do from cooking to boiling their water for a bath, we're using bottled water, I do not trust anything ([CNN](#))."

Syria Chlorine Gas Attack: Rescue workers and medical staff have said at least 85 people were killed in a chemical attack on Saturday. Witnesses describe what he said was green gas emanating from the canisters falling from the sky. Symptoms of a chlorine attack include dyspnea and coughing, as well as intensive irritation of the mucous membrane and breathing difficulties ([Al Jazeera](#)).

Massive Water Leak Leaves Many without Water in West Virginia for Over a Week; Deep Pipes Make it Hard to Find Leak; Mayor Calls West Virginia Rural Water Association for Help ([TV News](#)).

[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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