

Rural Water Policy Advisory [7/23/2018]

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#) to view on WaterPro Online or [here for PDF](#) version.

Senators Standing Up for Rural and Small Communities, Stand Up to EPA: Senator Barrasso's (WY) effort to organize a [Senate statement](#) to EPA urging the Agency to fix the EPA technical funding problem was closed-out on Friday. The last update we received on Friday had 36 Senators supporting the effort. Wyoming, Minnesota, South Dakota, West Virginia, Vermont North Dakota, Maryland, Montana, Missouri, Mississippi and Delaware had both of their Senators sign the letter. We plan on circulating the official, signed version of the letter in next week's edition.

Senator Barrasso (WY)	Senator Carper (DE)	Senator Capito (WV)
Senator Heitkamp (ND)	Senator Boozman (AR)	Senator Wicker (MS)
Senator Smith (MN)	Senator Thune (SD)	Senator Duckworth (IL)
Senator Manchin (WV)	Senator Klobuchar (MN)	Senator Baldwin (WI)
Senator Ernst (IA)	Senator Rounds (SD)	Senator Enzi (WY)
Senator Moran (KS)	Senator Hoeven (ND)	Senator Sanders (VT)
Senator Leahy (VT)	Senator Tester (MT)	Senator Van Hollen (MD)
Senator Daines (MT)	Senator Collins (ME)	Senator Whitehouse (RI)
Senator McCaskill (MO)	Senator Inhofe (OK)	Senator Cassidy (LA)
Senator Fischer (NE)	Senator Merkley (OR)	Senator Sullivan (AK)
Senator Shelby (AL)	Senator Gillibrand (NY)	Senator Cardin (MD)
Senator Booker (NJ)	Senator Markey (MA)	Senator Coons (DE)
Senator Hyde-Smith (MS)	Senator Graham (SC)	Senator Blunt (MO)

Florida Rural Water Association Annual Conference Promotional Video ([YouTube](#)).

Is Rural Water Optimistic about the New EPA Administrator?: In a word "yes." The new "Acting" EPA Administrator is Andrew Wheeler who was previously the Deputy Administrator. Wheeler has pledged to implement Pruitt's agenda to *"reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens."* NRWA has supported many of the proposals for regulatory modification that Pruitt was advancing and we are very optimistic that Acting Administrator Wheeler will advance and craft regulatory changes that will be helpful to small and rural water utilities as well as the entire water sector. The optimism is based on Wheeler's extensive work on rural water issues in the U.S. Senate. Wheeler is scheduled to appear before Senator Barrasso's Senate environment committee August 1, marking his first public appearance before Congress since becoming the Acting Administrator.

New Jersey Lawmaker Advances Legislation to Tax Tap Water: The bill places a "user fee on water consumption." The plan would add about \$32 per year to the average water bill (approximately 10 cents for every 1,000 gallons of water used) and bring in about \$150 million in revenue per year ([NJ News](#)). Some states already tax residential water through a general sales tax. Those states include Arizona, Arkansas, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Tennessee, and Vermont, the report states. Washington State has a tax on bottled water.

California's New PFAS Program: Effective July 13, 2018, the California Division of Drinking Water (DDW) established drinking water notification levels of 14 ppt for PFOA and 13 ppt for PFOS, and a combined PFOA/PFOS drinking water response level of 70 ppt ([CA.gov](#)).

Bottled Water Company Illegally Dumped Toxic Arsenic Wastewater: A number of readers forwarded this article to us this week. The companies transported and dumped the waste without

disclosing the contents on shipping manifests and they took it to a facility not permitted to treat hazardous waste. ([AP News](#)).

EPA's Office of Inspector General Recommends More Federal Authority to Prevent the Next Flint: In their report published last week, the EPA OIG calls for more EPA oversight of state drinking water systems ([NYTimes](#)).

FEMA Report Finds Agency Sorely Unprepared for Hurricanes: The 2017 hurricane season in the United States was the most destructive on record. According to the report, nearly five million people registered for FEMA assistance last year, exceeding the combined total from four previous major hurricanes - Rita, Wilma, Katrina and Sandy. The 2017 storms caused a total of \$265 billion in damage and badly stretched FEMA's capacity to respond ([NYTimes](#)).

Delaware Advises Customers of BroadKiln Beach, PrimeHook Water Companies to Boil Water after Samples Test Positive for E. Coli Bacteria ([news](#)).

[National Rural Water Association](#)

Contact: Mike Keegan, Policy Analyst <keegan@ruralwater.org>
(Washington, DC)

[\[safe unsubscribe | subscribe\]](#)

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.

Reprint Policy: this report, including any portion, may be distributed publicly without permission or citation.

Archives: past editions of this newsletter are available on the internet ([link](#)).