

Rural Water Policy Advisory [9/17/2018]

Hurricane Florence: Reports from water utilities ([Google](#)): “Cape Fear Public Utility Authority said it is in desperate need of fuel for its generators so that it could continue to provide water to Wilmington, N.C. ‘If we do not get the needed fuel within the next 24-hours, we will not be able to continue water service for public health and safety such as fire suppression and other life-sustaining activities at the hospital.’” North Carolina Rural Water Association updates provided on [Twitter](#).

Last Week, House & Senate Water Committee Leaders Announced a Comprehensive Water Resources Infrastructure Bill: The “[America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018](#)” makes significant improvements and modifications to the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act that will be very beneficial to small and rural communities. NRWA is appreciative of the very helpful water-related provisions in “America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018,” and urges its passage and enactment ([NRWA statement](#)). The bill did not include a House Committee’s “mandatory consolidation” authority provision that would have allowed regulators to make consolidation decisions. In the consolidation provisions, the bill reflects NRWA’s “Fletcher” principle that local communities (governments) should retain authority to choose when to merge, consolidate or enter into any type of privatization arrangement. The principle was articulated by NRWA President Steve Fletcher on May 19, 2017 during the House Subcommittee on Environment hearing regarding the legislation ([video](#)).

NRWA WaterPro Conference Starts Today: The NRWA board of directors convened on Saturday and approved reports from the Legislative Committee and Regulatory Committee. The Legislative Committee reported that 2018 was the most successful funding year ever for Rural Water.

Rural Water Priority Funding Levels

Initiative	FY2017	FY2018
USDA Circuit Rider Technical Assistance	\$16,897,000	\$19,000,000
USDA Grassroots Source Water Protection Program	\$6,500,000	\$6,500,000
USDA Water and Wastewater Technical Assistance	\$20,000,000	\$40,000,000
USDA Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant	\$571,190,000	\$560,263,000
USDA Water & Waste Disposal Revolving Loan Funds	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
EPA Technical Assistance and Training	\$12,700,000	\$12,700,000
EPA Clean Water State Revolving Fund	\$1,393,887,000	\$1,693,887,000
EPA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	\$863,233,000	\$1,163,233,000

NRWA's Quarterly Report on 2018 Successes of Grassroots Policy Advocacy ([full report](#)):

- Oppose EPA “Mandatory Consolidation” Authority, H.R. 3387 ([link](#)).
- Expand WIFIA to SRFs ([link](#)).
- Comments on Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science ([link](#)).
- Support Decoupling Lead In-home Monitoring from Rule Compliance
- Executive Order 13777, Support Regulatory Reform for 18 EPA Rules ([link](#)).
- Support Change of Definition of “Waters of the United States” Rule ([link](#)).
- Oppose Expansion of EPA Regulatory Authority under Risk Management Plans Rule ([link](#)).

Regulatory Issues under Consideration

Oppose MCL for PFAS (Support PFAS Clean-up Assistance)
Perchlorate MCL Rulemaking (Modeling and Selection)
Affordability (Under SDWA and CWA)
Mandatory Federal CAPs (Consumer Assistance Programs)
Revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule
“Flushable” Wipes (Legislation, Ordinances, and Torts)
PVC Industry)Preferential Federal Reviews)
Drinking Water Health Advisories (vs. MCLs)