

The “Power of an Association” Comes to the U.S. Senate: The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved its bi-partisan water funding bill, sponsored by Senators Inhofe (OK) and Boxer (CA), on Thursday. Senate Bill [S. 2848](#), the Water Resource Development Act of 2016, includes numerous new water funding proposals including **NRWA requests** that we have been pressing for a number of years and most recently requested in [testimony](#) before the committee on April 7th. Robert Moore, board member with Oklahoma Rural Water Association, testified for NRWA at the hearing. The bill includes \$100 million for the state revolving funds (SRF) and specifically \$20 million for small communities under a new program within the SRFs. It also includes a new Clean Water Act technical assistance program that has the language to direct EPA to use the funds for assistance that small communities find most beneficial - mirroring the recent drinking water technical assistance changes. The legislative package also includes the "[Hubbard fix](#)," a provision that allows states to use 2% of their Clean Water SRF to fund technical assistance. The bill is expected to receive a vote before the Senate in May or June.

House Republicans Want to Decimate EPA: The House of Representatives' Republican Study Committee (RSC) released its environmental policy plans for this year ([April 22 Report](#)). The group calls for major EPA budget cuts and a host of regulatory reform legislation that would limit EPA's ability to promulgate and enforce new rules. The group calls the EPA "a job-killing agency that is out-of-control..." In addition to calling for a freeze on new regulations until the next inauguration, the RSC's agenda incorporates many pending regulatory reform bills including [H.R. 427](#) which would require majority votes in both chambers of Congress to approve agencies' major rules; [H.R. 1155](#) which would require agencies to repeal or loosen older rules when they enact new ones as well as tightening retrospective review of existing rules; [H.R. 712](#) which would add public disclosure requirements to increase "transparency" in agencies' regulatory settlements; and [H.R. 527](#) which would strengthen the Regulatory Flexibility Act's requirements for agencies to consult with the Small Business Administration on rules' impacts to small businesses.

Mari, the 8-Year-Old Girl Who Wrote President Obama to Come to Flint: Mari, who is known around town as “Little Miss Flint,” plans to show the commander-in-chief how the city’s lead-contaminated water supply has changed her neighbors’ lives when the President visits next Wednesday. Mari has scars on her arms from the tainted water and a few rashes that are less prominent. Mari said she plans to ask Obama how hard it is to work in the White House and how many bedrooms are in his

home. As for the first thing she plans to do, the little girl said, “I’m going to give him a big hug” ([Time](#)).

Iowa State Legislature and Farmer Backs State Legislation to Reform Board of Directors of a City that is Suing Iowa Farmers to make it More Rural ([news](#)).

What Was the Motive of the Two State Regulators and One Flint Operator Charged by the Michigan Attorney General?: Last summer, after tests showed Flint’s drinking water had excessive lead, Flint water operator Mike Glasgow went to his office at the city’s water treatment plant and talked on the phone with two employees with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The state regulators, Stephen Busch and Michael Prysby, “insisted” that Glasgow alter a July 2015 report and exclude two test sites, thereby reducing the lead level in the tested water. That move lowered the average lead level below the threshold that would have required residents to be notified of the dangerous lead levels in the water supply, according to the state’s warrant request. There is no report, however, on their motive. Glasgow, 40, faces one felony conviction of tampering with evidence, and one misdemeanor of willful neglect of duty. Glasgow was opposed to the switch in water sources. Professor Marc Edwards of Virginia Tech, whose research helped expose Flint’s water troubles, is listed as a person who could be called as a witness for the prosecution. **USA Today Reports on State and Local Activity for Posting Lead Water Line Maps on the Internet:** Starting June 1, Mississippi will require water systems to submit an annual inventory or map of lead service lines and lead plumbing in their systems. The information will be posted on the state’s website ([USA Today](#)).

EPA Announces It Will Release New National Drinking Water Policy By End of the Year on Blog Post ([EPA](#)).

Rural Women Are More Receptive to Environmental Concerns than Men: In Minnesota, women will be paid to persuade resistant farmers to care and do something about the state’s increasingly polluted waterways ([Governing magazine](#)).

EPA Webinar: On May 11th, there will be a webinar on new tools and resources for drinking water and wastewater utilities for drought response, natural disasters, and analytical preparedness ([register](#)).

National Rural Water Association

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