

## Rural Water Rally 2017 Special Single Issue Edition

**Rural Water Comes to Congress:** NRWA's annual Rural Water Rally will begin today in Washington, DC. Your brothers and sisters in the rural water movement will spend the week in the Halls of Congress urging *all* Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to make rural water funding a priority in annual Congressional spending bills ([more](#)).

**Rural Water Comes to the U.S. Senate Debate on Infrastructure Funding:** On February 8<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold its first hearing on new National Infrastructure issues ([Committee announcement](#)). NRWA and West Virginia Rural Water Association board member, Mike McNulty (General Manger of the Putnam Public Service District) will testify on behalf of all rural and small communities' water utilities. In his prepared remarks, McNulty states, *"Our member communities have the very important public responsibility of complying with all applicable regulations and for supplying the public with safe drinking water and sanitation every second of every day. Most all water supplies in the U.S. are small; 94% of the country's 51,651 drinking water supplies serve communities with fewer than 10,000 persons, and 80% of the country's 16,255 wastewater supplies serve fewer than 10,000 persons. President Trump has made improving the county's infrastructure, including water and wastewater, a priority. We are grateful for that. My main point here today is to tell you that if rural and small town America is not specifically targeted in the legislation that would authorize and fund a new water infrastructure initiatives, the funding will by-pass rural America and be absorbed by large metropolitan water developments. Over the last 50 years, through the combined financial assistance of the state revolving funds and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rural water grant and loan initiative that has exceeded 100 billion dollars, the country has made great advancements in the standard of living in rural America. Millions of rural Americans now have access to safe public or "piped" drinking water that their parents did not have. Thousands of rural communities now have public sewer or wastewater systems that have allowed for elimination of millions of questionable septic tanks, cess-pools, straight pipes, or worse. This rural water infrastructure development has been the engine of economic development and agricultural technology advances in rural communities, and it has provided for dramatic improvements to the environment and public health."*

**Rural Water to Fix EPA Technical Assistance Funding** ([Instructions](#)).

**Rural Water Takes Aggressive Position to Change Numerous Federal Regulations with New Administration and New Congress:** The NRWA Regulatory Committee convened on February 4<sup>th</sup> and adopted numerous regulatory reform positions for the association including approving a motion to identify [all existing NRWA active policy items](#) and forward them to the new administration for consideration, and providing a motion to forward the Trump Administration two discrete and achievable regulatory or deregulatory reform policies: (1) to allow for all mandatory public notices under the Safe Drinking Water Act to be eligible for electronic delivery similar to the change in delivery

for Consumer Confidence Reports and (2) to modify the mandatory language in public notices in order to limit unnecessarily alarming the public concerning drinking water safety. The committee also accepted reports from NRWA representatives serving on numerous intergovernmental panels including: Wilmer Melton (NC) on the EPA National Drinking Water Advisory Committee, George Hanson (MND) on the National Lead Service Line Removal Collaborative, Charles Hilton (SC) on the Water Sector Coordinating Council, John Sasur (MA) on the Federal Advisory Committee for Lead & Copper Rule Revisions, and Paul Fulgham (UT) on the AWWA Water Utility Council.