

Rural Water Issues Advisory [7/15/2019]

House Passes PFAS Legislation - NRWA Engages Sponsors with Concerns: On Friday, the House of Representatives approved amendments to the defense authorization bill that would require EPA to declare within one year that perfluorinated chemicals are hazardous substances under the Superfund law ([text](#)). These amendments would require EPA to add PFAS to the list of toxic pollutants under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and develop technology-based effluent limits ([text](#)). The votes set up a conflict with the Senate passed bill which excluded these two provisions. NRWA urged the sponsors of the amendments to modify their legislation to limit any adverse impact on rural and small communities ([NRWA, July 9, 2019](#)). We have been contacted by both sponsors of amendment #1 and they invited us to dialogue about possible solutions to our concerns as the bill moves to a Senate-House Conference Committee. Pending those discussions and discussions with the Senate sponsors of the legislation, we will craft a strategy for the conference committee that will determine the final version of the legislation to be submitted to the President for signature. Thank you to Michigan Rural Water Association for their assistance in our efforts with Representatives Dingell and Kildee. And thank you to Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems for their assistance in our efforts with Senator Barrasso, the Chairman of the Senate Committee drafting the legislation. Neither House passed amendment was included in the Senate passed bill in June - and many favorable provisions for our members were included in that legislation ([Rural Water Issues Advisory, 7/1/2019](#)).

The Michigan Rural Water Association Selected Filer Township as the Municipality with the Best Tasting Water ([News Advocate](#)).

Flint Crisis Gets Gov. Snyder De-platformed from Harvard: On July 3, Gov. Snyder tweeted, *"I have informed the Harvard Kennedy School that I am turning down its offer as Fellow. It would have been exciting to share my experiences, both positive and negative; our current political environment and its lack of civility makes this too disruptive. I wish them the best."* Food & Water Watch said, *"People power has kicked Rick Snyder out of Harvard... Harvard's behavior in the face of human suffering is completely unacceptable. If Harvard were a true leader required of the times, it would stop profiting off of polluting industries and propping up the credibility of failed government officials."*

Edison, New Jersey City Council Votes Down Motion to Prohibit Water Privatization: On Wednesday, the Edison Township Council voted 4-3 to reject an ordinance that would require the town to keep its sewer system and part of its drinking water system under permanent public management. The ordinance was introduced after Edison residents submitted nearly 5,000 petitions. The push for permanent public management of the system was in direct response to a controversial proposal for the town to lease its systems to the private utility SUEZ for 40 years ([NJ.com](#)).

PFAS in Biosolids Report by Environmental Health News: Maine dairy cows' milk contains exorbitant levels of PFAS from treated sewage sludge applied in 2004; roughly seven million tons of biosolids are produced in the U.S. each year; half of it is applied to fields; there are currently no federal regulations requiring PFAS testing; Maine temporarily halted all land application of biosolids; we are all responsible for generation of biosolids; we can't just leave farmers holding the bag for cleanup and lost income; Michigan is systematically testing biosolids at wastewater plants; neither farmers nor sewage treatment plants are responsible for this problem; wastewater treatment plants and farmers are going to be unfairly blamed for PFAS finding its way into food; and farmer says they should stop using biosolids until the state requires PFAS testing prior to land application ([EHN.com](#)).

South Carolina Community Whose Drinking Water Problems Draw Attention of Presidential Candidates Gets \$4000 Fine Over Sanitary Survey Deficiencies ([T&D News](#)).

Good Intentions - All Montana Schools to Regularly Test Water for Lead: The new DPHHS rules propose that schools test all "human consumption fixtures" at least once within a year of October 1st. If results are above the EPA threshold of 15 parts per million, schools must immediately stop using the fixture and remediate it within six months. Schools raise concerns ([KTVQ.com](#)).

House Lawmakers Reintroduce NO LEAD Act: Last week, House members introduced the National Opportunity for Lead Exposure Accountability and Deterrence Act, which would lower the EPA's standard for lead in drinking water from 15 parts per billion to 10 ppb by 2020 and 5 ppb by 2026 ([Representative Kildee](#)).

New York Sets Lowest PFAS Level for Drinking Water: The state has approved a maximum limit of 10 parts per trillion for PFAS in drinking water, putting the state on track to have the lowest standards for the substances in the US.