



October 7, 2019

PRESIDENT TRUMP SIGNS CWCC SUPPORTED BILL PROVIDING FINANCIAL FLEXIBILITY TO ADVANCE PRESSING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

After passage in the Senate and House last month, last week President Trump signed the bill authored by New Jersey Senator Cory Booker (D) that may help communities across the country push priority water infrastructure projects into construction. The bill dubbed the “The Water Infrastructure Funding Transfer Act” gives states facing public health crises (including lead in drinking water) the flexibility to make a one-time transfer of the federal funds in their Clean Water State Revolving Fund to their Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

States are now able to make a one-time transfer of up to \$100 million in federal funds from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. This would be at the sole discretion of the State. This bill was stimulated initially by communication between the Office of Senator Booker, the NJDEP and the UTCA of NJ noting the lack of flexibility when one side of the SRF is flush with funding and the other is not. Future lobby efforts will focus on creating this flexibility permanently with funding going back and forth between Clean Water and Drinking Water SRFs in a given state so that less money is sitting on the sidelines and not going towards active construction. Fluidity between the two programs is helpful but we know what is truly needed is more funding, which remains our top priority.

Window Narrowing for Transformative Infrastructure Package

Since 2019 is generally an off-year for federal elections (with the exception of 4 special elections to replace members who have resigned or died in the 116th US Congress) there remains a window for the Trump Administration and Congress to negotiate an infrastructure package (including “pay fors”). With the recent decision by Congressional Democrats to proceed with Impeachment Hearings, that window appears to have narrowed. There are many that say the Democrats will not give the President a “win” but we are choosing to remain optimistic and actively at the table.

Beyond tracking a “mega” deal on infrastructure, Key Advocates, on behalf of the CWCC, is focusing on the following bills that would address several Coalition priorities:

- **H.R.1497, “Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019”**
- **H.R. 2741, “Leading Infrastructure for Tomorrow’s America Act” (the “Lift America Act”)**

cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org | P.O. Box 728 | Allenwood, NJ 08720 | Office: (732) 292-4300 | Fax: (732) 292-4310

Robert Briant, Jr. – Chairman

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* Steering Committee Member



- **H.R. 1162, “Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act”**
- **H.R. 2473, “Securing Access for the Central Valley and Enhancing (SAVE) Water Resources Act”**
- **S. 1932, “Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act”**
- **H.R.2019 - Smart Energy and Water Efficiency Act of 2019 (the “West Act”)**

In addition, the Coalition is tracking and anticipating action in the Senate on the FY20 appropriation bills for the SRF / WIFIA programs. As previously reported, over the summer the House passed a “minibus” that includes the FY20 Interior Appropriations Bill providing \$1.81B (an increase from the \$1.7B appropriated in 2019) for the **Clean Water SRF**, \$1.3B (the amount authorized by the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, an increase from the \$1.16 appropriated in FY19)) for the **Safe Drinking Water SRF**, and \$50M for **WIFIA**.

Similarly, in June the House passed its version of the FY20 Energy and Water Appropriations bill as part of another “minibus” which provides \$63.617M for Title XVI (of which \$10M is for the Title XVI WIIN grant program) and \$60M for **WaterSMART** and lists the names of the FY18 USBR Title XVI grant awardees, as required by law.

In addition, we can report that there has been action in the Senate on the transportation appropriations bills we have been tracking. See the attached report for more details.

IMAGINE A DAY WITHOUT WATER – OCTOBER 23, 2019

Last year, over 1,000 organizations participated in a strategic communications effort branded “Imagine a Day Without Water.” This is a way for your organizations to participate in a wider communication and stakeholder engagement for no cost. This wide public push can be a part of your strategy to support utilities getting the investment they need to replace aging infrastructure.

The message for this project was developed to be generic but impactful. You can feel free to take this message framework and tailor it to better suit the specific issues and solutions you want to highlight for Imagine a Day Without Water. By signing up, you get access to resources to easily:

1. Engage on social media
2. Host an event
3. Push the need for increased investment into the news
4. Partner with a local mayor or other public official
5. Bring issuing into the classroom

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For more information, please visit: <http://imagineadaywithoutwater.org/>

KEY ADVOCATES REPORT

Included with this notice is Key Advocates recent report which is current to the end of September.

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