



November 4, 2019

HOUSE T&I COMMITTEE BILL ADVANCES 5 YEAR / \$16.8 BILLION CLEAN WATER SRF FUNDING PLAN

The CWCC worked with partners to help push a markup of H.R. 1497, the "Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019" through the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee last week. H.R. 1497, as amended, increases the Federal commitment to addressing our Nation's substantial needs for wastewater infrastructure by authorizing a total \$16.68 billion over five years in wastewater infrastructure through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and other programs to improve water quality relevant to issues faced in our state and region.

Using the baseline of FY 19 funding (\$1.7B/year) this bill commits the federal government to a significant increase in funding, essentially **doubling the annual funding over the next five (5) years**. Through Committee staff, the Chairs of the Full House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and its Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment asked for and received CWCC support moving this bill. Bob Briant, Jr's letter of support for H.R. 1497 on behalf of the CWCC is attached to this report.

This bill, if fully enacted, meets a major CWCC priority--doubling funding for water infrastructure projects through the Clean Water SRF. This comes at the heels of a similar win when Congress and the President worked together to double funding for the Drinking Water SRF by FY 21. These increases will have a meaningful impact on the backlog of funding needs in water infrastructure projects and begin to correct a situation where states and local governments are forced to pay on average 95 percent of the cost of water infrastructure projects.

Thanks to CWCC members who took the time to communicate with members on the House T&I Committee to secure their support. Now the work begins to see the same action in the Senate and then on the floor of Congress within the foreseeable future.

WINDOW CONTINUES TO NARROW FOR TRANSFORMATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE

As highlighted in the attached report from Key Advocates and as stated in previous reports, the climate in DC is not positive for a major infrastructure package. Key Advocates, on behalf of the CWCC, is focusing on the following additional water bills that would address several Coalition priorities:

- H.R. 2741, "Leading Infrastructure for Tomorrow's America Act" (the "Lift America Act")
- H.R. 1162, "Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act"
- H.R. 2473, "Securing Access for the Central Valley and Enhancing (SAVE) Water Resources Act"

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Robert Briant, Jr. – Chairman

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* Steering Committee Member



- 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 Drinking Water SRF, and \$50M for WIFIA. The hope is that this is the baseline and will be increased if HR 1497 is enacted.

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.

CWCC BUSINESS MEETING DURING THE ROUNDTABLE EVENT HOSTED BY PLANET UNDERGROUND

At the DC Fly In last spring, we discussed getting together before 2020 to continue our engagement on lobbying priorities and to share associations issues (e.g. membership, continuing education, emerging leaders programs, safety, risk management, underground damage prevention, events). There is also a need to discuss ways to get more participation at the DC Fly-In and to, in general, increase membership and participation. There is also the potential to expand the scope of the CWCC to subject areas like wind energy and coastal / flood protection projects. Focusing on these matters face to face was judged to be a high priority.

We have identified an opportunity for a CWCC business meeting to take place concurrent with the **Roundtable Event organized by Planet Underground December 4-5th in Manteno, IL**. We are grateful to the **Underground Contractors Association of Illinois for offering to host us in their offices (Itasca, IL – right outside of Chicago) in the afternoon of Tuesday, December 3rd**. A call-in number / WebEx presentation will be set up for those that wish to attend but cannot make the trip. The UCA of Illinois offices are within a short driving distance of Chicago O'Hare International Airport. Transportation between the UCA of Illinois offices and the Roundtable Event will be coordinated for CWCC members on Wednesday, December 4th.

Please RSVP with Dan Kennedy ASAP via email at kennedy@utcanj.org and indicate whether you will attend in person or via call-in / WebEx

The following is our tentative schedule:

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Tuesday, December 3rd: Arrive at UCA of IL Offices by 1 PM (Lunch Provided)
CWCC Business Meeting from 2-5 PM
Group Dinner 7 PM (Location TBD)

Wednesday, December 4th: Depart UCA of IL Offices (AM TBD) for Roundtable Event
Return to UCA of IL Offices (PM TBD) from Roundtable Event

Travel details are up to each CWCC member. If you are flying in, we highly recommend Chicago O'Hare International, as it is very close to the UCA of IL offices. The most convenient hotel (attached to the UCA of IL offices) is the Westin Chicago Northwest <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/chinw-the-westin-chicago-northwest/?scid=bb1a189a-fec3-4d19-a255-54ba596febe2>

Toll-Free Reservation Center:
+1 888-236-2427

Rooms are currently available on these dates. Rates are very reasonable for the area.

Attendance at the Roundtable is at the sole discretion of CWCC members but highly recommended. For more information on the Roundtable Event, please see: <https://www.planetunderground.tv/roundtable/> and the attached brochure. An informational video can be found at: <https://youtu.be/N-rQV0V6OF0>

CWCC members have been offered a greatly reduced sponsorship / registration (Bronze Level), which includes up to 2 registrations and company logo in official event video and program, for only \$250. Please contact Michael Parilac mike@planetunderground.tv (219) 696-4015 directly to access this special deal and reference that you are a CWCC member.

KEY ADVOCATES REPORT

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

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