



April 5, 2019

CWCC FLY IN / WATER WEEK 2019 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



This week the CWCC joined a broad coalition in Washington, DC as a sponsor of Water Week 2019. CWCC member associations in attendance were: Associated Utility Contractors of Maryland, New Mexico Utility Contractors Association, Underground Contractors Association of Illinois, Utility Contractors Association of New England, and the Utility & Transportation Contractors Association of NJ. We were joined by Sante and Brian Esposito from Key Advocates for a pre-event briefing on Tuesday April 2nd to prepare for the events.

At the briefing, the following policy priorities were discussed:

- Authorize and appropriate Clean Water SRF at \$4B per year and Safe Drinking Water SRF at \$2B per year while improving / enhancing the WIFIA program to complement and not replace or add competition to State SRF Programs; and
- Reauthorize the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act with an increased program authorization;

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Robert Briant, Jr. – Chairman

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* Steering Committee Member

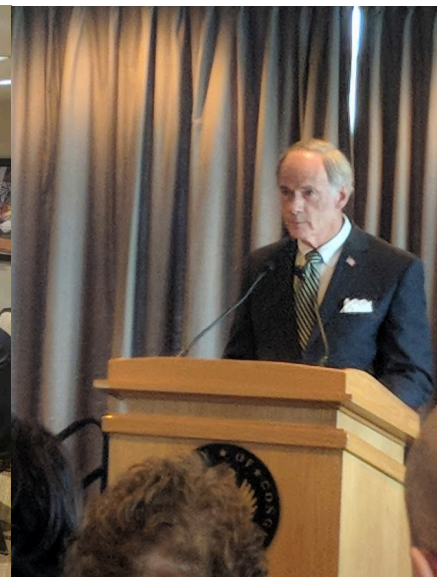


- Streamline permit approval process for all water infrastructure projects that repair / replace existing assets to no more than one year and eliminate regulatory duplication for SRF and WIFIA projects; and
- Authorize the Alternative Water Source Program at \$375M with up to 80% Federal share;
- Establish a voluntary fee water labeling program (estimated to generate \$7B per year equally divided between the CWSRF and SDWSRF); and,
- Enact Private Activity Bond changes including removal of state volume cap, allow broader categories of eligibility, etc.

Time was dedicated to an open discussion of common member association issues. A highlight was a great discussion lead by leaders from the Underground Contractors Association of Illinois related to bringing in and training the next generations of leaders for their organization. Several members of their “Emerging Leaders Program” attended the DC events with Executive Director Wiedmaier and represented themselves and their organization in an impressive fashion. More information will be shared in the coming weeks on this needed and successful approach to the long-term viability of our organizations. Common legislative and policy challenges were also discussed. It was agreed that the CWCC should add a function to assist in awareness of positive or negative legislation that may expand past an individual state or region. More to follow on that effort in the coming weeks.



CWCC Member Briefing



Senator Tom Carper Addresses Reception

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The events held on Wednesday, April 3rd included a briefing on US EPA priorities related to water and discussions related to infrastructure funding, water reuse / security, CSOs, and PFAS and other CWA / SDWA issues. The formal events of the day ended with a reception at the Library of Congress featuring Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), Ranking Member, US Senate Environment Public Works Committee.



Congressional Staff Roundtable



UTCANJ and UCA of Illinois Cross Paths on the Hill

The events held on Thursday, April 4th included a roundtable of congressional staff members, including last year's fly-in speaker Joe Brown, Legislative Assistant for Senator John Boozman (R-AR). CWCC was able to insert an often-overlooked issue with national water advocates, streamlining reviews and decreasing the gap between appropriation of funds and construction. After this briefing, we joined others at a briefing on the Hill where we heard speakers, including Congressman Bruce Westerman (R-AR), Ranking Member, Water Resources & Environment Subcommittee of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.



Congressman Westerman

UCANE and UTCANJ Attend Hill Briefing

CWCC Members took advantage of what turned out to be a busy time in DC to meet with their home state delegation. We will be doing a full evaluation of how the shift to Water Week worked out but early feedback has been very positive.

“WATER QUALITY PROTECTION AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2019” IS NOW HR 1491

As previously reported, Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Chair of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Grace Napolitano (D-CA), Representative Don Young (R-AK), and Representative John Katko (R-NY) introduced the bipartisan Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019 (**HR 1491**) to address America’s crumbling wastewater infrastructure and local water quality challenges. This bipartisan bill is said to be moving into the next steps of the process in May. If HR 1491 is signed into law it would more than double the Clean Water SRF (CWSRF), the top policy priority for the CWCC in 2019.

HR 1491 would authorize **\$20 billion in Federal grants over five years (\$4 B / year would be more than double the current FY appropriation of \$1.6 B)** to capitalize State CWSRFs. These funds provide low-interest loans and additional loan subsidizations (e.g., principal forgiveness and



negative interest loans) to communities for wastewater infrastructure. A complete review of the bill is included in the attached report from Key Advocates.

Key Advocates worked with the sponsors and was asked to sign on as an early supporter. See: <https://transportation.house.gov/committee-activity/water-quality-protection-and-job-creation-act-> for a full list of supporters. If you click on the Coalition's name in the list of supporters it takes you to our support letter. A copy of the CWCC letter of support is attached to this report for your convenience.

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS REPORT FOR MARCH 2019

On March 7, the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a hearing entitled "The Clean Water State Revolving Fund: How Federal Infrastructure Investment Can Help Communities Modernize Water Infrastructure and Address Affordability Challenges." Witnesses were Mayor David A. Condon, City of Spokane, Washington, on behalf of the United States Conference of Mayors; John Mokszycki, Water and Sewer Superintendent, Town of Greenport, New York, on behalf of the National Rural Water Association; Catherine Flowers, Rural Development Manager, The Equal Justice Initiative, Montgomery, Alabama; Maureen Taylor, State Chairperson, Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, Detroit, Michigan; Andrew Kricun, P.E., BCEE, Executive Director/Chief Engineer, Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority, Camden, New Jersey, on behalf of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies; and, Jill Heaps, Assistant Professor of Law, Vermont Law School, Burlington, Vermont.

On March 6, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a hearing entitled, "The Economic Benefits of Highway Infrastructure Investment and Accelerated Project Delivery." Witnesses were Patrick McKenna, Vice President, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; Steven Demetriou, Business Roundtable Infrastructure Committee; and, Michael Replogle, Deputy Commissioner for Policy, New York City Department of Transportation.

On March 13, the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing titled, "Aligning Federal Surface Transportation Policy to Meet 21st Century Needs." The hearing focused on whether and how Federal-aid highway and Federal transit policies need to change to ensure that our surface transportation network can meet current and future challenges. Witnesses were Ron Nirenberg, Mayor, City of San Antonio, on behalf of the National League of Cities; Roger Millar, Secretary, Washington State Department of Transportation, on behalf of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; Darran Anderson, Director of Strategy and Innovation, Texas Department of Transportation, on behalf of the Texas Innovation Alliance; Jack Clark,

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Executive Director, Transportation Learning Center; Therese W. McMillan, Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, on behalf of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations; Al Stanley, Vice President, Stanley Construction Company, Inc., on behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America; and, Michael Terry, President and CEO, IndyGo - Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation, on behalf of the American Public Transportation Association.

KEY ADVOCATES REPORT

Included with this notice is Key Advocates recent report which is current to the end of March 2019.

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