



June 7, 2019

PROGRESS ON CLEAN WATER AND DRINKING WATER APPROPRIATION BILLS

On May 22, the House Appropriations Committee reported its version of the federal FY20 Interior Appropriations Bill which provides \$1.8B for the Clean Water SRF (an increase of more than \$100M over the last Federal Fiscal Year) and \$1.3B for the Drinking Water SRF (an increase of \$140M over the last Federal Fiscal Year and equal to the amount authorized by the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018). The fact that the appropriators provided up to the authorized level for the Safe Drinking Water SRF argues for enactment of authorization levels above the \$1.8B for the Clean Water SRF. Action in the Senate is expected in the coming weeks.

In addition, the House Appropriations Committee reported its version of the federal FY20 Energy and Water Appropriations bill 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 federal FY18 USBR Title XVI grant awardees, as required by law.

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE ON HOLD

Since President Trump and the congressional Democrats agreed to a top-line \$2 trillion target infrastructure package, the Administration and the Congress have not come to an agreement on the details, including pay-fors. President Trump inserted unrelated conditions into the negotiations that, if not reconsidered, will likely submarine any progress on a "big, bold, and bipartisan" infrastructure package that leadership states they are committed to. More discussion is included in attached report from Key Advocates.

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS PRESS INFRASTRUCTURE AGENDA SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1497 GROWS

As previously reported, Chairman DeFazio embarked on a very aggressive series of infrastructure hearings – four having been held in the past two weeks. In the Senate, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has solicited from Members of the Committee what they want in an infrastructure bill.

As has been previously discussed and reported, the Coalition sent a letter of support for H.R.1497, the "Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019." This bill, introduced by

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



Chair DeFazio, Subcommittee Chair Napolitano, and Representatives Don Young and John Katko, now has **39 cosponsors**. As a reminder, the bill:

- Authorizes \$20 billion in Federal grants over five years for Clean Water SRFs.
- Authorizes \$1.5 billion over five years for grants to implement state water pollution control programs.
- Provides \$600 million over five years for Clean Water pilot programs (including Federal technical assistance and/or grants) for watershed-based or system-wide efforts to address wet weather discharges, to promote storm water best management practices, to undertake integrated water resource management, and to increase the resiliency of treatment works to natural or man-made disasters.
- Authorizes \$375 million in grants over five years for alternative water source projects including projects that reuse wastewater and storm water to augment the existing sources of water.

On May 22, the House Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing on H.R. 2741, the “Leading Infrastructure for Tomorrow’s America Act.” Regarding safe drinking water, the bill includes the following major provisions:

- Extend and increase authorizations of \$18.69 billion for essential drinking water programs including the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund, the Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program, School and Child Care Program Lead Testing grants, Lead Drinking Fountain Replacement, Community Water System Risk and Resilience grants, and Public Water System Supervision grants to states. This subtitle also extends Buy American requirements for drinking water projects along with the funding extension.
- Fund grants up to \$2.5 billion over five years to affected water systems to combat PFAS contamination. The legislation further directs the EPA Administrator to create a list of eligible treatment technologies, defined as those that can remove all detectable amounts of PFAS from drinking water.

KEY ADVOCATES REPORT

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

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