



**July 1, 2019**

## **CLEAN WATER AND DRINKING WATER APPROPRIATION BILLS CONTINUE TO MOVE**

The House has decided to package appropriations bills into what they are calling “minibuses” rather than consider bills individually on the Floor. On June 25, the House passed a “minibus” that includes the FY20 Interior Appropriations Bill providing \$1.810B for the Clean Water SRF, \$1.3B (the amount authorized by the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018) for the Safe Drinking Water SRF, and \$50M for WIFIA. If the Senate passes a similarly funded measure, the Clean Water SRF would be increased \$100M over the last Federal Fiscal Year while the Drinking Water SRF will would be increased \$140 M. No action to date on the Senate version(s).

On June 19, 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. No action to date on the Senate version(s).

## **CWCC ASSESSES VIABILITY OF AN INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE**

With the relationship between President Trump and the congressional Democrats spiraling, the top-line funding targets for an infrastructure package remain elusive. You will read Key Advocate’s Sante Esposito’s assessment of the current state of affairs in Congress. Given all of the moving parts and changing currents, the Coalition’s approach will be threefold: stay engaged with the key players in Congress and the Administration; encourage action on an infrastructure bill; and, advocate for our priorities.

Highlights of some positive signals include:

- Chairman DeFazio is drafting his FAST Act reauthorization bill with a goal toward House action in the fall and the possible cornerstone for a mega infrastructure bill;
- The T&I Committee is expected to markup Chairman DeFazio’s Clean Water/Alternative Water Source Program bill by the August recess;
- On June 25, the T&I Subcommittee of Water Resources and Environment will be holding a hearing on Restoring America’s Iconic Waters”;
- The House Natural Resources Committee held a subcommittee hearing today on the Napolitano and Harder WIIN grant authorization bills pending consideration by the Full Committee;

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**Robert Briant, Jr. – Chairman**

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\* Steering Committee Member



- The House Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing on H.R. 2741 to increase funding authorizations for the Safe Drinking Water SRF;
- Congressman McNerney has, subject to confirmation, decided to break up his WEST Act of last Congress and introduce individual bills that include matters under the jurisdiction of specific committees;
- Speaker Pelosi said during a recent press conference: "We are not giving up on infrastructure. We're going to do infrastructure, build the infrastructure of our country.";
- Congressman Blumenauer introduced H.R. 2864 that would raise the gas tax by 25 cents at 5 cents per year for 5 years and will also be indexed for inflation for infrastructure projects;
- Majority Leader Hoyer has put together a small working group from the leadership, the Appropriations, Ways and Means and Rules Committees to strategize on infrastructure;
- Key House Republicans such as Congressman Sam Graves, Ranking Republican on the T&I Committee, and Rodney Davis, Ranking Republican on the Highways and Transit Subcommittee, have publicly expressed support for an infrastructure bill;
- SEPW has targeted the August recess for its version of the FAST Act;
- Senate Commerce has solicited infrastructure asks from its members;
- Reports are that Senators Feinstein and Gardner have drafted a WEST water bill that includes reauthorization of the WIIN grant program;
- Senate Democrats, via Minority Leader Schumer, has called on his fellow Senators, including Republicans, to move forward on an infrastructure bill;
- Key Senate Republicans such as Senators Graham and Grassley have publicly expressed support for an infrastructure bill; and,
- The Trump Administration, via USDOT, continues to engage the Hill on the scope and funding of an infrastructure bill.

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

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

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- 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.

A markup of this bill is expected in July.

#### **KEY ADVOCATES REPORT**

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

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