

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer,

We are writing to you on behalf of our membership; the over 31,000 small and rural community water and wastewater utilities that have the critical responsibility of providing the public with drinking water and wastewater treatment during this crisis and after recovery from coronavirus-related emergencies.

Our constituency is experiencing coronavirus-related challenges from declining revenue due to consumers' inability to pay their bills, loss of businesses, and the general decrease in our local economic activity. Regardless of these challenges, we will continue to keep drinking water and wastewater services available to the public consistent with our essential mission and purpose to serve the public.

We write to thank you for enacting the Paycheck Protection Program to provide financial assistance to small businesses and nonprofits during the pandemic. The Paycheck Protection Program was crafted to assist small businesses and nonprofits. Currently, water and wastewater districts are in urgent need of this same assistance to maintain payroll, cover operating expenses, purchase water and wastewater treatment supplies, personal protection equipment, etc. We note that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security designated our water and wastewater districts as a critical infrastructure. We have the same challenges as many other small businesses in meeting our payroll and expense obligations.

As you develop the guidance, regulations, application forms and future legislation for implementing the Paycheck Protection Program, we request that you ensure America's drinking water and wastewater districts (i.e. U.S. Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c)(12) corporations, other nonprofit corporations, and independent state authorized special purpose water districts) are deemed as qualifying business concerns and are able to fully participate and benefit as small businesses serving their local communities. Most all water and wastewater districts meet the U.S. Small Business Administration size standards.

We also have additional requests to be provided in further comments for federal assistance concerning the Coronavirus Relief Fund for smaller local governments and other political state subdivisions; any potential federal moratorium on local disconnection policy; and any water or wastewater infrastructure legislation.

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to working with you to ensure the continuity of public drinking water and wastewater services. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

For and on behalf of National and State Rural Water Associations,



Sam Wade
CEO
National Rural Water Association

California Rural Water Association	Kentucky Rural Water Association	New York Rural Water Association
Alabama Rural Water Association	Alaska Rural Water Association	Rural Water Assn of Arizona
Arkansas Rural Water Association	Atlantic States Water & WW Association (CT/RI)	Colorado Rural Water Association
Delaware Rural Water Association	Florida Rural Water Association	Georgia Rural Water Association
Hawaii Rural Water Association	Idaho Rural Water Association	Illinois Rural Water Association
Alliance of Indiana Rural Water Association	Iowa Rural Water Association	Louisiana Rural Water Association
Maine Rural Water Association	Maryland Rural Water Association	Mass Rural Water Association
Michigan Rural Water Association	Minnesota Rural Water Association	Mississippi Rural Water Association
Missouri Rural Water Association	Montana Rural Water Systems Association	Nebraska Rural Water Association
Nevada Rural Water Association	Granite State Rural Water Association	New Jersey Water Association
New Mexico Rural Water Association	North Carolina Rural Water Association	North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association
Ohio Rural Water Association	Oklahoma Rural Water Association	Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Pennsylvania Rural Water Association	South Carolina Rural Water Association	South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems
Tennessee Association of Utility Districts	Texas Rural Water Association	Rural Water Association of Utah
Vermont Rural Water Association	Virginia Rural Water Association	Evergreen Rural Water of Washington
West Virginia Rural Water Association	Wisconsin Rural Water Association	Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems