



**American Water Works  
Association**

## Utility Member Benefit

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## Legislative Alert

**TO: AWWA Section Chairs, Section WUC/Government Affairs Chairs**

**FROM: AWWA Government Affairs**

**DATE: August 31, 2010**

**RE: Results of your meetings with senators**

Greetings!

We sent out a Legislative Alert earlier this month encouraging AWWA Sections to organize state-based Fly-Ins or meetings with their senators during August to press two key legislative issues before Congress: chemical facility security and the state revolving loan fund. The August recess ends September 10.

Please let us know what meetings have taken place and kind of responses you all have been receiving. We particularly need to know if senators or their staffs have requested follow-up information or visits that we may provide from this office.

Please send your feedback to Tommy Holmes in the AWWA Washington Office at (202) 326-6128 or [tholmes@awwa.org](mailto:tholmes@awwa.org). Tommy will take your own questions as well.

*Note this alert is being sent to both Section Chairs and Section WUC or Government Affairs Chairs. It is critical that visits and communications with your Senators be coordinated within the Section so that we don't have duplicative meetings and communications occurring.*

### **Background:**

AWWA is urging utility members to contact their senators by phone, e-mail or personal meetings in your home state, in your Senator's state offices. Your Senators may be working from their state offices during the month of August, when Congress traditionally adjourns. These are the two critical and timely issues:

**Chemical Security.** The first issue concerns pending chemical security legislation that could significantly affect the water sector. Please ask your Senators to vote in favor of H.R. 2868 as approved by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs without amendment, when it comes to the Senate floor.

This bill would extend the current chemical security program for the chemical industry for three years

and maintain the current exclusion for the water sector. As you may recall, the water sector was excluded from this program because – unlike the chemical industry – the water sector is subject to provisions of the Public Health Protection and Bioterrorism Prevention and Response Act of 2002. And of course, water utilities are already subject to various standards and requirements under OSHA, the Emergency Response and Community Right to Know Act, the emergency response provisions (section 112r) of the Clean Air Act, and state law.

There may be attempts to amend the Homeland Security Committee bill to add provisions that give state or federal regulators the ultimate say over a utility's choice of disinfectant. AWWA believes this choice must remain a local decision, so that it can balance all of the risks inherent in using any chemical with a plethora of local factors, including water chemistry, pathogens of concern, local infrastructures, and the physical infrastructure requirements associated with a change in disinfection.

Again, please ask your Senators to support H.R. 2868 as approved by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs without amendment.

**SRF Reform and Reauthorization.** The second critical and timely issue concerns reauthorization and reform of the State Revolving Funds for water and wastewater, including a significantly increased authorization of funding. The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works has reported a bill (S. 1005) that increases drinking water SRF funding to \$14.7 billion over the coming five years, and \$20 billion for the wastewater SRF program. It also makes other reforms to streamline the SRF application process. Please urge your Senators to ask that S. 1005 be brought to the Senate floor as soon as possible, and ask them to vote in support of this bill.

S. 1005 bill would not only increase funding, but make some administrative improvements to the bill, including making rehabilitation and replacement of aging infrastructure and security upgrades specifically eligible for loans.

**Background Material.** AWWA has prepared background material on these bills which you may use for talking with your Senators, and background papers you may send or take to them. The prepared materials may be found as follows:

- To download a letter template, please go to [http://www.awwa.org/files/GovtPublicAffairs/August\\_letter\\_template.doc](http://www.awwa.org/files/GovtPublicAffairs/August_letter_template.doc)
- To download background papers that you can place on your own Section or utility letterhead, please go to [http://www.awwa.org/files/GovtPublicAffairs/August\\_Alert\\_SRF.doc](http://www.awwa.org/files/GovtPublicAffairs/August_Alert_SRF.doc) and [http://www.awwa.org/files/GovtPublicAffairs/August\\_Alert-chemical.doc](http://www.awwa.org/files/GovtPublicAffairs/August_Alert-chemical.doc)
- To download this whole package, including “Tell-Ask” talking points, please go to [http://www.awwa.org/files/GovtPublicAffairs/August\\_Alert\\_package.pdf](http://www.awwa.org/files/GovtPublicAffairs/August_Alert_package.pdf)

**Note the Senate will be on its annual August recess from Aug. 9 to Sept. 10, and your Senators will spend much of that time in one or more of their state offices. This would be a great time to schedule a visit and talk to them about these critical issues.**

To find your Senators' offices, go to [http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm) . There you will see links to the websites for each Senator. Within those individual sites will be addresses and phone numbers for the state offices.

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