

May 22, 2023

AMWA backs source water protection and resilience bills

Download (<https://www.amwa.net/node/15195/printable/pdf>)

AMWA backs source water protection and resilience bills

May 22, 2023 at 5:30 AM

Last week, AMWA signed onto a [letter](https://www.amwa.net/letter/letter-support-reauthorizing-water-source-protection-program) (<https://www.amwa.net/letter/letter-support-reauthorizing-water-source-protection-program>) led by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) to endorse efforts to reauthorize the Water Source Protection Program (WSPP), a USDA initiative that invests in projects to prevent water pollution at its source by encouraging water utilities, agricultural producers, cities, and the U.S. Forest Service to work in partnership to restore forest health and impaired watersheds.

Forthcoming legislation from Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) called the "Headwaters Protection Act" is expected to promote several Forest Service efforts to protect drinking water sources, including:

- Reauthorizing the WSPP and increasing its authorization from \$10 million per year to \$50 million per year;
- Broadening the range of water users, including historically disadvantaged communities, who could participate in and benefit from the WSPP;
- Reducing financial barriers for water users to participate in the WSPP;
- Prioritizing WSPP projects that benefit drinking water quality and improve

resilience to wildfire and climate change; and

- Making a technical change to the Watershed Condition Framework to ensure that healthy watersheds do not become degraded.

AMWA also recently recorded its support for the “Reclamation Climate Change and Water Program Reauthorization Act,” ([H.R. 3027](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/3027?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22congressId%3A118%20AND%20billStatus%3A%5C%22Introduced%5C%22%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=9)) as introduced by Rep. Katie Porter (D-Calif.). This bill would reauthorize the Reclamation Climate Change and Water Program that assess the effects of, and risks from, global climate change regarding the quantity of water resources located in specified areas encompassing a watershed that contains a federally authorized reclamation project. The program also ensures that strategies are developed to address potential water shortages, conflicts, and other impacts to water uses and the environment of each area.

More information about these and other water-related legislation supported or monitored by AMWA can be found in the association's [Legislative Tracker](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BsBbgraWpWx5t6WF0SfuSG-oYVcHM0gVgPqyngPbKHYY/edit#gid=0) (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BsBbgraWpWx5t6WF0SfuSG-oYVcHM0gVgPqyngPbKHYY/edit#gid=0>). The tracker is continuously updated as new bills affecting water systems and water policy are offered on Capitol Hill.

[Back to May 22, 2023](https://www.amwa.net/monday-morning-briefing/may-22-2023)

<https://www.amwa.net/monday-morning-briefing/may-22-2023>)

Source URL:

<https://www.amwa.net/article/amwa-backs-source-water-protection-and-resilience-bills>