



ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN
WATER AGENCIES

MID-YEAR ADVOCACY REPORT

AUGUST 2025

www.amwa.net



In 2025, Washington adjusted to a new Congress and a new presidential administration, each of which came into office with their own goals and objectives. Amidst the transitions, AMWA has remained a steady presence, solidifying itself as a go-to resource for elected officials, political appointees, and the staffs that support them on issues of water policy.

Throughout the year, AMWA has worked tirelessly on amplifying the voices of our members to this audience. **Whether through arranging meetings with EPA staff, organizing briefings on Capitol Hill, or submitting detailed comment letters, AMWA has ensured that the nation's largest publicly owned drinking water systems have a seat at the policymaking table.**

This update is intended to provide a snapshot of what we have accomplished to date this year, and to preview where we plan to go next. AMWA's Policy Team of [Dan Hartnett](#), [Jessica Evans](#), [Megan Seymour](#), and [Erin Phillips](#) will continue to represent the association's interests on Capitol Hill and before EPA and other federal agencies, guided by the [policy priorities](#) that were identified by our members.

As this work continues, please remember that none of it is possible without you, our members. Your utility is invited to get involved in support of AMWA's advocacy efforts – whether by writing to members of Congress through our [Legislative Action Center](#), participating in [committee calls](#) that solidify our positions on policy proposals, or simply staying on top of developments by reading our [newsletters](#) – each of you has a critical role to play.

The busy pace that has been a hallmark of 2025 so far is not expected to let up anytime soon. Please contact any member of the Policy Team if you would like more information about our ongoing initiatives, or would like to get more involved with AMWA's activities.



Tom Dobbins
Chief Executive Officer

Of all the issues facing drinking water systems, perhaps none is as all-encompassing as PFAS. Local drinking water systems are facing both EPA’s new National Primary Drinking Water Regulations targeting the contaminants, and the agency’s designation of certain PFAS as hazardous substances under CERCLA, which will complicate water systems’ ability to dispose of the contaminants that are removed from drinking water supplies.

AMWA has been at the forefront of responding to both issues. **Since President Trump took office in January, AMWA has built a network of connections within his administration, and has focused on urging EPA to explore more practical and cost-effective alternatives to the PFAS standards that were finalized under the Biden Administration last year.** In May, those efforts paid off when EPA announced plans to rescind and reconsider part of the standards, and extend the compliance timeline for others.

However, as of this summer EPA’s specific plans for how it intends to adjust the existing rule remain unclear. AMWA continues to maintain open lines of communication with the Trump Administration, and stands ready to comment on a formal proposal to improve the PFAS rule.

Meanwhile, on Capitol Hill **AMWA remains one of the leading advocates for the “Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act,”**

bipartisan legislation that would shield local drinking water and wastewater systems from CERCLA liability related to the disposal of PFAS, provided that the water system follows all applicable disposal rules for the contaminants.

Working with a coalition of water sector stakeholders, AMWA supported introduction of the latest version of the legislation in February, by **Reps. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-Wash.) and Celeste Maloy (R-Utah).** The association continues to meet with congressional offices to cultivate additional cosponsors, and has secured key support from **Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.),** the influential Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

AMWA also helped spotlight the issue in June when the association cohosted a Capitol Hill briefing on the CERCLA liability challenge faced by water systems and other passive receivers of PFAS contamination. AMWA was represented by **Jason Dadakis of the Orange County Water District** in California. Like so many other water systems, the utility has already spent millions of dollars to remove PFAS from its source waters, and without congressional action is facing millions in additional costs related to CERCLA liability. AMWA will continue to pursue passage of the Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act as a crucial tool to shield ratepayers from facing excessive and unwarranted cleanup bills for contamination that they did not create.



Jason Dadakis of the Orange County Water District discussed his utility’s experience managing PFAS at a June congressional briefing.

AMWA has been diligently following and preparing for the EPA's plans to revise four rules governing microbial and disinfection byproducts (MDBP), pursuant to a 2020 settlement agreement with environmental stakeholders. Last year, when the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) convened a working group to help develop consensus recommendations for the potential rule revisions, AMWA led a series of workshops with the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) to evaluate the recommendations and develop consensus viewpoints.

EPA is currently expected to release its proposal for the revisions to the MDBP in the summer of 2027. In anticipation of this proposal, **AMWA delivered a joint letter to EPA with AWWA and ASDWA to offer consensus recommendations on elements of the rule revisions that the Agency should consider when developing potential revisions.** These included setting a minimum numeric level for chlorine and total chlorine secondary disinfectant residuals and requiring regular inspection and maintenance of finished water storage facilities.

AMWA shared further perspectives in its own letter to EPA, where the association provided additional guidance on defining finished water storage, reevaluating finished water storage tank inspection and cleaning costs, and affording primacy agency discretion and flexibility in the regulation of consecutive systems.

Additionally, **AMWA, with support from AWWA, commissioned a study by Corona Environmental Consulting to conduct a first-of-its-kind nationwide analysis on the presence of *Legionella* in water samples collected from federally owned or leased buildings and disinfectant residual levels reported by water systems serving the building.**

Utilizing the General Services Administration's baseline testing of buildings it owns and leases nationwide and sampling information from a nationally representative sample of water systems, Corona researchers have conducted a thorough data cleaning and analysis examining the relationships between national *Legionella* presence within building sampling locations and disinfectant residual in water serving the same buildings. The researchers will submit their manuscript for publication in a sector article, and AMWA aims to both discuss research outcomes with the EPA and publish a summary of the results and their potential implications. **AMWA anticipates that the results of this study will help inform EPA as it considers the effectiveness of raising the minimum disinfectant residual requirements as a method of controlling *Legionella*.**



AMWA staff met with Jessica Kramer of EPA's Office of Water in April.

AMWA is navigating the complicated policy landscape surrounding lead service line replacements and mandates for public water systems to expeditiously eliminate these lines on public and private property. The association is committed to putting forward workable solutions that protect public health while avoiding impractical regulatory burdens.

Following last year's finalization of the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) by the Biden Administration, AMWA developed a summary of the complex rule to be used as a reference point by member utilities. Then, after President Trump took office in January **the association arranged meetings with incoming Office of Water officials to brief them on the challenges faced by utilities attempting to comply with the rule**, and to encourage implementation strategies that could address these concerns.

When Republican lawmakers on Capitol Hill proposed overturning the LCRI through a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution, the association met with the bill sponsors and committee staff to discuss separate challenges that would be faced by water systems if the LCRI were repealed and previous lead and copper regulations immediately snapped back into place without giving communities additional time to comply. Ultimately, Congress did not act on the proposals to repeal the LCRI.

AMWA is also leading efforts to help water systems efficiently and affordably replace lead service lines. **The Association continues to build support for the Financing Lead Out of Water (FLOW) Act (H.R. 3892/S. 2007)**, an AMWA-inspired bill that would cut IRS red tape to make it simpler and faster for public water systems to use tax-exempt bonds when paying for full lead service line replacements. **The bill was reintroduced with bipartisan support in both the House and Senate in June, after AMWA secured the bill's first-ever Senate Republican cosponsor: Sen. Jim Justice of West Virginia.** The association also took the lead in lining up new champions of the bill in the House, following the retirement of its previous sponsor. As a result of AMWA's efforts, the latest House version of the FLOW Act was introduced by Reps. Claudia Tenney (R-N.Y.) and Gwen Moore (D-Wisc.).

When the FLOW Act was formally introduced, AMWA led a letter of support for the bill signed by seven water sector and governmental organizations that outlines the importance of the FLOW Act for public water systems. The association is continuing to solicit additional cosponsors to position the bill for inclusion in broader tax legislation that lawmakers could consider at the end of the year.

16 LETTERS SUBMITTED TO FEDERAL AGENCIES:

- 11 to EPA
- 1 to DHS
- 1 to OSHA
- 3 to the White House (1 each to OSTP, OMB, and CEQ)

FLUORIDE OVERSIGHT

Throughout 2025, AMWA has been carefully following national and state actions surrounding fluoride in drinking water. While **AMWA believes that communities should decide for themselves whether to add fluoride to their drinking water to promote dental health**, the association has aimed to keep members apprised of the overall policy landscape and promoted a continuous dialogue with members about potential areas of needed support, such as answering customer inquiries on the issue.

In April, the Department of Health and Human Services and EPA jointly announced planned actions related to fluoride in drinking water. This included a suggestion that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) may stop recommending community drinking water fluoridation to promote dental health – which would be a departure from CDC’s current guidance that water be fluoridated to 0.7 mg/L for this purpose. While any changes to this recommendation would not affect water systems’ legal ability to fluoridate their water, it would likely influence many state and community decisions. AMWA continues to monitor the issue, as no new recommendations had emerged as of mid-July.

The April announcement also included a pledge by EPA to expeditiously review new scientific information on potential health risks of fluoride in drinking water, citing an August 2024 National Toxicology Program report that said with moderate confidence that fluoride exposure above 1.5 milligrams per liter is associated with lower IQ in children. AMWA is awaiting further action here as well, and plans to engage on any resulting proposal from EPA.

This year AMWA has also communicated with the Administration about the importance of pursuing an appeal of a district court judge’s September 2024 ruling that overturned EPA’s decision to not regulate fluoride through the Toxic Substances Control Act. **AMWA has raised concerns about this case establishing a precedent for parties to leverage TSCA as a means to circumvent Safe Drinking Water Act standard-setting, which would undermine the transparent, science-based regulatory process through which EPA sets drinking water standards.** EPA did initiate an appeal in the closing days of the Biden Administration, and as of mid-July that litigation remained on hold.

Finally, the Association has been following state decisions on fluoridation practices, including two state bans implemented in 2025. In March, the state of Utah’s legislature voted to ban the addition of fluoride in drinking water. Florida followed in May by passing legislation that prohibits “the use of any additives in a public water system which do not meet the definition of a water quality additive...or the use of any additives included primarily for health-related purposes.”

PERCHLORATES

EPA is likely to propose a perchlorate NPDWR this year, under the terms of a consent decree that requires EPA to propose a perchlorate NPDWR by November 21, 2025, and to finalize a standard by May 21, 2027. **Earlier this year AMWA engaged in EPA’s Federalism consultation for this rule in advance of the proposal and provided comments highlighting the need for a streamlined monitoring and waiver process to manage financial burdens that water systems will experience because of the rule.**

SIXTH UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE (UCMR6)

AMWA has spent the summer preparing for EPA’s release of its proposed UCMR6, which is scheduled for release in August. The UCMR6 will include a list of no more than 30 contaminants that are not currently subject to SDWA regulations. AMWA and other sector groups expect that EPA may include a range of contaminants in UCMR6 including but not limited to any of those in CCL5, an expanded suite of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), hexavalent chromium, *Legionella* species, and microplastics as a class. In November 2024, Food & Water Watch, with over 170 supporting groups, submitted a [legal petition](#) to EPA requesting that microplastics be included in UCMR6.

The Association plans to work closely with its Regulatory Subcommittee to provide a thorough review and response to the Agency’s proposed rulemaking. For systems serving more than 100,000 people, EPA requires full participation in each UCMR monitoring cycle, including testing for all contaminants listed in that cycle.

In 2025, AMWA has built support for robust federal water infrastructure funding and has opposed proposals to cut funding for water programs. After the Trump Administration released its fiscal year 2026 budget request, which included nearly 90 percent cuts to the Drinking Water and Clean Water SRFs, AMWA led a letter to Congress in opposition to this proposal signed by 12 organizations. **Following AMWA’s outreach, in July the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a bill to reject the President’s SRF cuts and maintain level funding for the programs next year.**

AMWA additionally put a focus on defending funding for two key drinking water programs at EPA: the Reducing Lead in Drinking Water grant program and the Midsize and Large Drinking Water Infrastructure Sustainability and Resilience program. **Since the start of the year AMWA has submitted more than three dozen requests to congressional offices in support of funding for these programs** in this year’s appropriations bills and held numerous meetings with congressional staff to build awareness of their importance. **AMWA’s efforts generated tangible results in July when the Senate Appropriations Committee accepted an amendment to increase funding for the lead program by \$10 million next year, while preserving level funding for the drinking water resilience program.**

Beyond funding, AMWA has also put a focus on reauthorizing key water programs before they expire. During an April Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing on Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) programs, **AMWA submitted a statement for the record outlining the continued need for the supplemental water infrastructure funding provided through IIJA**, as well as provided background information to committee staff in preparation for the hearing.

So far this year AMWA also signed onto a widely supported letter sent to House and Senate leadership advocating for the protection of municipal bonds as a critical tool for water infrastructure financing, and submitted a letter to Appropriations Committee leadership advocating for level funding in the FY26 appropriations bill for NOAA’s Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, which provides important research, data, and modeling for water supply and precipitation forecasting.

AMWA remains committed to securing necessary federal funding for water infrastructure, and will persist in efforts to ensure that water infrastructure receives the attention and resources it critically needs.



AMWA staff met with lawmakers including Rep. Debbie Dingell of Michigan and Rep. Paul Tonko of New York.

AS OF JULY 31,

- 132** meetings with congressional staff
- 7** face-to-face meetings with members of Congress
- 23** meetings between AMWA members and congressional staff
- 13** bills endorsed in the 119th Congress
- 29** letters sent to Congress
- 26** meetings with federal agency staff and appointed officials
- 20** AMWA members participating in federal agency meetings

In June, AMWA submitted comments to EPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the upcoming definition revision for Waters of the United States (WOTUS). AMWA focused on representing the perspective of local water systems as EPA works to develop a definition that is simple, easy to understand, and long-lasting, in addition to being in compliance with the law.

AMWA's comments emphasized the importance of a definition that promotes comprehensive pollution control measures and ensures that source waters and wetlands are protected from contamination.

Comments also reiterated the historical standard that water infrastructure components are not under the jurisdiction of WOTUS once they are constructed, and encouraged EPA and USACE to be comprehensive and specific when expressing exclusions for water infrastructure in order to reduce any potential for confusion.

These comments were developed using insights and perspectives from AMWA's policy resolutions on pollution control, surface water protection, and wetland protection. AMWA plans to take advantage of similar engagement opportunities during future regulatory comment periods, and will continue to use these policy resolutions as a basis for action.



AMWA organized a series of Capitol Hill visits for members as part of the Water Policy Conference.

Since the federal Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) expired in 2023, AMWA has been building support in Congress for restarting the program. Working through the Water Affordability Coalition, in partnership with AWWA, WEF, NACWA, and NAWC, AMWA has focused on garnering support for the LIHWAP Establishment Act, which would formally reauthorize the program.

AMWA and others in the coalition have been working to highlight the need for a permanent LIHWAP. In January of this year, HHS released an [impact report](#) detailing the success of LIHWAP during the time it was operating. This report stated that the program served 1.5 million households and reduced over 1.1 million water bills, and demonstrated the urgency of continuing this assistance.

As a result of the efforts of AMMA and the Water Affordability Coalition, in July Rep. Eric Sorensen (D-Ill.) and Rep. Rob Bresnahan (R-Penn.) introduced the LIHWAP Establishment Act of 2025 in the House of Representatives. Unlike previous versions of the bill, this year's legislation (H.R. 4733) does not include a problematic provision that would transfer control of LIHWAP from HHS to EPA.

Following outreach from AMWA and others in the coalition, Senator Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) has committed to once again introduce the bill in the Senate. With AMWA's support, Sen. Padilla led a [letter](#) in support of FY26 funding for the program, which was signed by 28 senators. The Coalition also organized a [letter](#) requesting LIHWAP funding as a part of the disaster supplemental package in late 2024 following Hurricanes Helene and Milton, which impacted a large region of the southeast. AMWA and the Coalition are currently recruiting organizations outside of the water space to join onto a broader letter of support for the bill while continuing to bolster support from congressional offices ahead of reintroduction.

While the 119th Congress presents a challenging political landscape to move an unfunded water affordability program, LIHWAP remains a priority for AMWA. The association continues to highlight the necessity of the program with congressional offices and build a broad base of support across industries.



Top to Bottom: Jessica Evans represented AMWA at the first in person meeting of the Source Water Collaborative since 2017; Jessica Evans discussed planning for resilient infrastructure at a cross-sector workshop on water and power resilience in May.

CHAMPIONING RESILIENCE AS A PRIORITY FOR THE WATER SECTOR

Through the year, AMWA has highlighted its role as a leader in water utilities' adaptation and infrastructure resilience. Since January the association has delivered presentations and raised AMWA's profile at the following events focused on sustainability, climate change adaptation, and operational and planning resilience in the water sector:

1. University of Pennsylvania's Water Center's Spring Water Policy Forum, where AMWA delivered an update to participants on federal actions affecting water utility's ability to invest in and plan for future conditions;
2. Washington, DC's first Climate Week, where AMWA provided remarks on limitations and opportunities for the water sector to work across sectors to find innovative solutions that advance community resilience in a changing physical and political environment;
3. A cross-sector water and power sector resilience workshop hosted by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Department of Energy Water Power Technologies Office, American Public Power Association, and AWWA, where AMWA staff delivered a presentation on a project in the Mid-Atlantic region on better predicting the intensity of major precipitation events to inform water infrastructure.

Additionally, AMWA maintained its ongoing working relationship with the Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA), in which the association provides leadership, management, administrative, event, and contractual support. AMWA continues to leverage opportunities to share WUCA's leadership on adaptation with the greater AMWA membership and water sector generally.

FEDERAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE FUNDING ADVOCACY

AMWA has tracked potential impacts to water adaptation and resilience funding opportunities resulting from proposed cuts to federal spending. Proposed budget cuts to federal agencies, including NOAA, FEMA, USGS may negatively affect water systems' access to funding or affect the availability of hydrology and precipitation data water systems rely on for decisionmaking. One major impact of federal executive decisions has been the rescission of funds from the FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, which had provided hundreds of millions of dollars to water utilities, including many AMWA members, to conduct proactive infrastructure projects.

AMWA has also been tracking various proposals that could affect water systems' ability to prepare for disasters and invest in renewable energy opportunities. Proposed cuts outlined in the President's Budget to NOAA's Office of Ocean and Atmospheric Research (OAR) would jeopardize certain weather forecasting tools, hydrology models, and climate projection resources that water systems rely on for both short-term operations and long-term planning. These cuts include NOAA's climate projections, which help water systems understand what future drought and precipitation may look like, the release of Atlas 15 (a model examining the intensity of future precipitation intensity), and the closure of NOAA's Climate Adaptation Partnerships (CAP), which has worked with AMWA members in all regions of the nation to provide state-of-the-art services that inform water demand modeling, drought plans, design guidance, and more.

To respond to these funding proposals and advocacy opportunities, **AMWA has led or signed onto several letters to Capitol Hill encouraging representatives to maintain funding for programs crucial to water utilities' energy, infrastructure, and operational resilience.** Additionally, AMWA provided feedback to the FEMA Review Council in its May 15 comments urging the maintenance of FEMA disaster response efforts and reiterating the need for significant improvements to the Public Assistance Program reimbursement process.



CLEAN ENERGY INCENTIVES FOR WATER SYSTEMS

Throughout 2025, AMWA has diligently followed the fate of certain clean energy tax credits made available to public water systems through the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. Under that law, public water systems could receive financial incentives for projects like on-site solar, wind, micro-hydropower, biogas, and more. Congressional leaders debated for months about which, if any, of these credits to maintain in the budget reconciliation process. Mindful of these considerations and eager to support water systems investing in alternative onsite energy production and use, **AMWA led a coalition of six water and municipal sector organizations in writing to congressional leaders in early April in support of maintaining several of these clean energy tax incentives.**

Although lawmakers ultimately reduced eligibility for some of these credits, they were not completely eliminated. Specifically, water systems will still be eligible to receive the Investment Tax Credit or the Production Tax Credit for solar or wind projects put in place prior to December 31, 2027. For all the other eligible clean energy technologies (e.g., biogas, micro and inline hydropower), water systems will be able to access the credits at least through 2032. This timeline allows public water systems more time to receive federal credits for investing in technologies that can improve utility power resilience, lower costs, and meet local mitigation goals.

AMWA anticipates sharing a comprehensive overview of the available credits and eligibility requirements with its members in the coming months.

AMWA staff led the annual spring staff meeting of the Water Utility Climate Alliance in May at the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

AMWA achieved a significant victory in July when a massive tax reform bill championed by congressional Republicans and signed into law by President Trump omitted any rollback of the tax-exempt status of municipal bond interest.

Since taking control of Congress in January, Republicans had been eyeing a suite of revisions to the tax code, including various “revenue raisers” to offset tax cuts made elsewhere. When policymakers initially put “all options on the table,” AMWA and other stakeholders became alarmed that the longstanding tax exemption for municipal bond interest could be at risk – which would have the effect of dramatically increasing infrastructure financing costs for water systems across the country.

AMWA responded by actively participating in the Public Finance Network, a coalition that actively lobbied Congress to preserve current law related to the federal tax exemption on municipal bond interest. Through letters, reports, and other direct outreach, the coalition repeatedly made the point that imposing new taxes on municipal bond interest would increase borrowing costs for water systems and other local government agencies – which would raise the cost of infrastructure investment, and lead to higher rates for local ratepayers.

In its advocacy, **AMWA amplified data points showing that nearly \$130 billion worth of municipal bond debt supporting water infrastructure projects was outstanding as of January 2025, and that fully taxing muni bond interest could increase financing costs by 25%.** The association also provided sample letters to its members, which they could use to educate their own elected officials about the local value of municipal bonds, and the implications of adjusting the tax exemption.

Ultimately, **the final version of the tax reform bill approved by the House and Senate and signed into law by President Trump made no changes to the current tax-exempt status of municipal bond interest – a testament to the grassroots efforts of AMWA and other municipal bond supporters.** Passage of the legislation should lay to rest concerns about the future of the municipal bond tax exemption for the foreseeable future, but AMWA will remain vigilant and responsive to any future threats.

While the 119th Congress presents a challenging political landscape to move an unfunded water affordability program, LIHWAP remains a priority for AMWA. The association continues to highlight the necessity of the program with congressional offices and build a broad base of support across industries.

MEETINGS WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES:

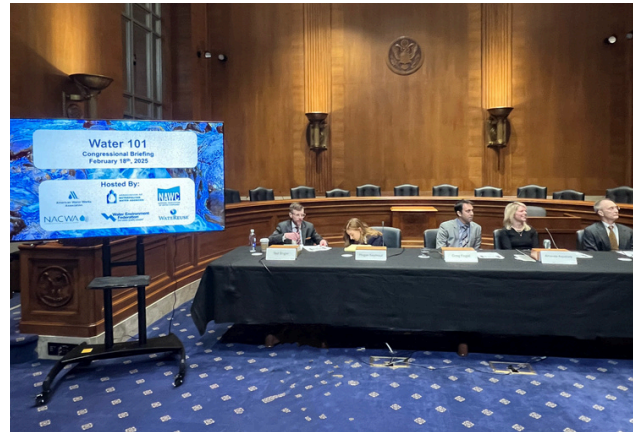
- EPA: 15
- OMB: 2
- GSA: 1
- DoD: 1
- GAO: 1
- DOI: 1
- Commerce: 3
- NASA: 1
- DoE: 1
- DHS: 2

In March, AMWA worked with Senator Edward Markey (D-Mass.) and Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.) to support introduction of H.R. 2344/S. 1118, the Water Intelligence, Security, and Cyber Threat Protection Act (WaterISAC Threat Protection Act), legislation that the association developed to protect against threats to water systems. The bill would create a targeted EPA program to encourage water and wastewater systems to participate in WaterISAC and would provide funding to offset some costs associated with maintaining or initiating WaterISAC memberships. The proposal also directs the EPA to collaborate with WaterISAC on incident data collection and threat analysis for the water sector. AMWA has spoken with relevant committee staff about the bill and continues to communicate with committees about their plans for cybersecurity oversight hearings.

In addition to promoting membership in WaterISAC, **AMWA supported reintroduction of H.R. 2594, the Water Risk and Resilience Organization (WRRO) Establishment Act, sponsored by Rep. Rick Crawford (R-Ark.).** This legislation would direct EPA to certify a Water Risk and Resilience Organization composed of experts in cybersecurity and water system operations. The WRRO would be responsible for developing appropriate, tiered, risk-based cybersecurity requirements and implementation plans for the nation’s water systems. EPA would collaborate with the WRRO to approve cyber requirements that are practical and implementable for utilities—thus raising the baseline of cyber preparedness for water systems nationwide. AMWA will continue to advocate for this and other approaches to increasing cyber preparedness that promote input from water systems.

AMWA has also been working with Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Calif.) and Sen. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.) to develop and introduce legislation providing for the reauthorization of the Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability

program, which provides grant funding for resilience-related projects – including cybersecurity – for public water systems. **The bill is expected to be formally introduced in the fall, with Sen. John Boozman (R-Ark.) lined up to serve as the lead Republican cosponsor.**



Megan Seymour represented AMWA at a "Water 101" briefing for congressional staff in February.

AMWA's 2025 Water Policy Conference in April saw record attendance, bringing together water executives from across the country to explore legislative and regulatory issues through a series of presentations from thought leaders, congressional figures and staff, and EPA officials.

Notable speakers included:

- **Bob Woodward** – Award-winning journalist and Washington Post Associate Editor, offering his perspectives on President Trump's legacy.
- **Rep. Paul Tonko** – Democratic Congressman from New York, surveying the current political landscape
- **Jennifer McLain** – Director of the EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, outlining the agency's drinking water agenda for 2025.
- **Nushat Thomas** – Cybersecurity Branch Chief of EPA's Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division, speaking about the agency's ongoing efforts to address both physical and cybersecurity challenges.

On the conference's final day, **AMWA arranged for a small group of member utilities to meet with key congressional committee staff**, including the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. These meetings provided member utilities with an invaluable opportunity to gain insights directly from committee staff about their current legislative priorities and explore how AMWA can offer its perspectives.

Discussions covered critical topics such as securing full funding for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) and other essential water infrastructure financing programs, addressing PFAS CERCLA liability issues, improving the cybersecurity landscape, and tackling water affordability challenges. These dialogues highlighted the direct impact of these priorities on the nation's water systems, thereby reinforcing the significance of AMWA's advocacy efforts.

By facilitating direct conversations between our members and key legislative staff, **these meetings not only strengthened AMWA's relationship with influential policymakers but also provided a platform for member utilities to voice their experiences and concerns from the field.** This direct engagement underscored the importance of the association's advocacy work and showcased the tangible benefits of collaborative policymaking.



2025 got off to a busy start, and the pace is not expected to let up as we head into the fall. Congress will continue work on FY26 appropriations bills and may explore reauthorizing key programs like the Drinking Water SRF and WIFIA, while EPA is planning to propose a drinking water standard for perchlorate and the Sixth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, as well modifications to the PFAS MCLs.

AMWA will remain engaged on all of these issues, and will continue to seek opportunities to make their voice heard. We invite all of our members to let us connect them with their elected officials, participate on one of AMWA's committees, and attend AMWA's conferences – including October's Executive Management Conference in Austin. Please feel free to contact any AMWA [staff member](#) for information on how to get involved.

STAY CONNECTED AND FOLLOW AMWA ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies



@AMWA_Water



Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies



@AMWA_Water