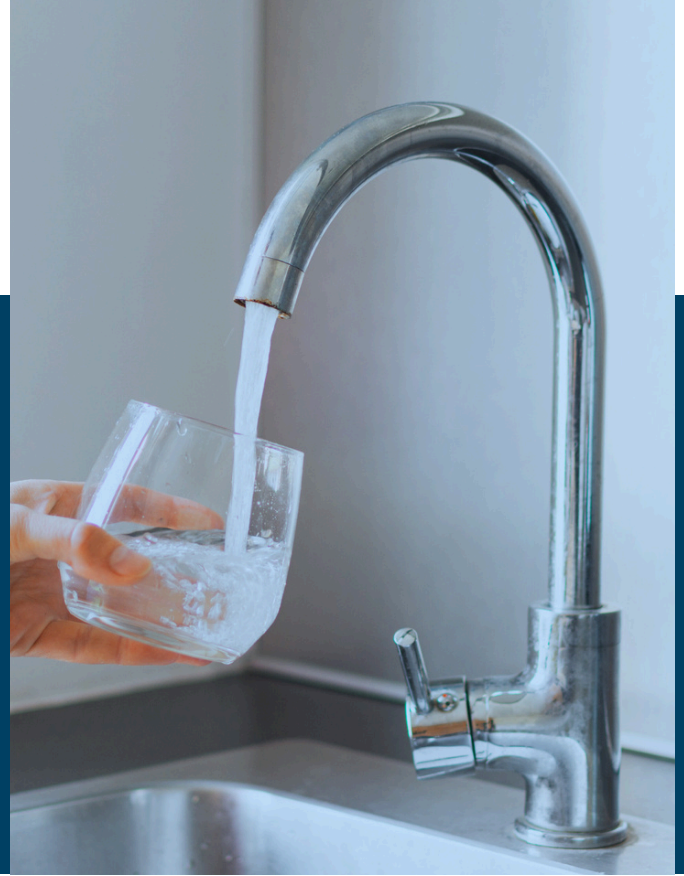




ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN
WATER AGENCIES



INVEST IN WATER, INVEST IN AMERICA: PRIORITIZE DRINKING WATER IN 2026!

The nation's public drinking water systems are the unseen engines of America's economic and public health infrastructure, yet in 2026 they stand at a crossroads. With key infrastructure programs set to expire and new regulations increasing household costs, AMWA supports a suite of bills and policies that promote access to clean and safe water for every American:



**H.R. 1267, the Water Systems
PFAS Liability Protection Act**



**H.R. 5566 / S. 3590, the Water
Infrastructure Resilience and
Sustainability Act**



**Reauthorization and Full
Funding of EPA's Water
Infrastructure Programs**



**H.R. 3892 / S. 2007, the Financing
Lead Out of Water (FLOW) Act**



**H.R. 4733, the LIHWAP
Establishment Act**



**H.R. 2344 / S. 1118, the WaterISAC
Threat Protection Act**

WHAT IS AMWA?

Founded in 1981, AMWA is the nation's only policy-making organization solely for metropolitan drinking water systems. Our members provide quality drinking water to more than 160 million people across the United States.

AMWA's members are the nation's largest publicly owned drinking water systems, and take pride every day in delivering safe and clean water to Americans from coast to coast. In 2026, we will focus on these and other policies that support public health and economic development through access to drinking water.



www.amwa.net



info@amwa.net

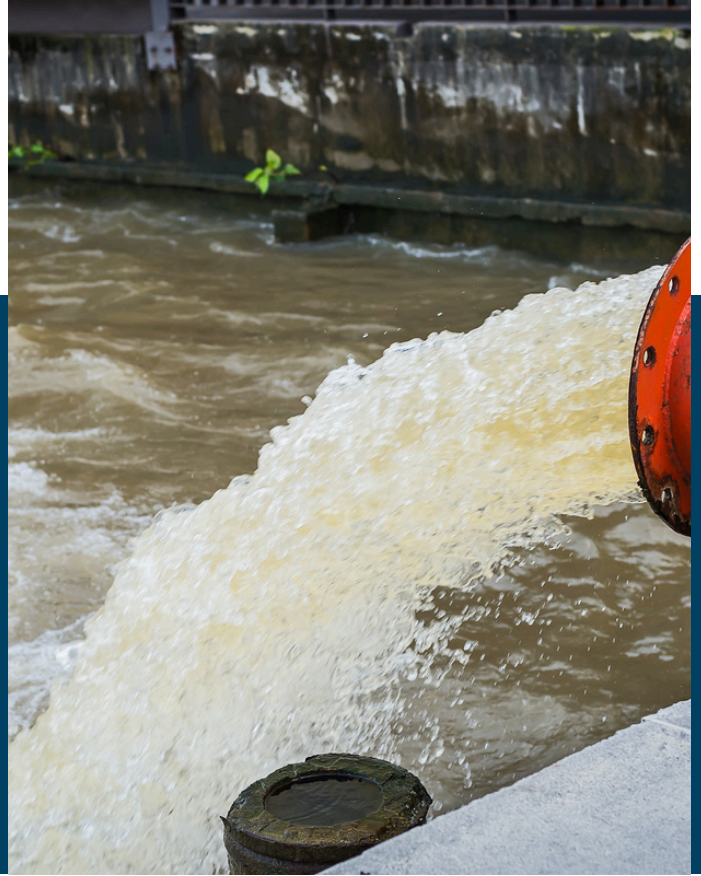


(202) 505-1565



ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN
WATER AGENCIES

HOLD POLLUTERS ACCOUNTABLE FOR CLEANING UP PFAS — SUPPORT H.R. 1267, THE WATER SYSTEMS PFAS LIABILITY PROTECTION ACT



EPA's designation of PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) could allow polluters to exploit a loophole and pass on their responsibility for cleaning up sites contaminated with PFAS to water system ratepayers. **H.R. 1267, the Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act**, would close that loophole and hold polluters accountable.

WHAT ARE PFOA AND PFOS?

PFOA and PFOS are among the thousand of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) – man-made, stain-resistant, waterproof, and non-stick chemicals. In recent years, EPA has set drinking water standards for PFOA and PFOS, and designated them as “hazardous substances” under CERCLA.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Starting in 2029 drinking water systems must remove PFOA and PFOS from drinking water supplies to meet EPA's 4 part-per-trillion standard. However, after these contaminants are filtered out of water, the water system must properly dispose of them – often by sending them to a hazardous waste landfill.

Under CERCLA, any entity that contributed any amount of a hazardous substance to a Superfund site can incur liability for a portion of the cleanup costs. So if the disposal site of a water system's PFOA and PFOS is ever subject to a Superfund cleanup, the utility and its ratepayers would get the bill – even though the utility and ratepayers already paid to remove the man-made pollution from their water in the first place.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

PFAS producers and polluters should have to pay to clean up their contamination from the environment, rather than passing these costs off to water systems. To this end, Reps. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-Wash.) and Celeste Maloy (R-Utah) have introduced **H.R. 1267, the Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act**. The legislation ensures that drinking water and wastewater systems that properly dispose of water treatment byproducts containing PFOA and PFOS can not be held liable for site cleanups under CERCLA—thus ensuring this responsibility remains with the actual polluters who introduced PFAS into the environment in the first place.

AMWA urges House members to cosponsor H.R. 1267 today! A Senate version of the bill is under discussion by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.



www.amwa.net



info@amwa.net



(202) 505-1565



ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN
WATER AGENCIES

SUPPORT JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH WATER INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT



Water is essential for life, and is critical to support public health. However, investing in water systems that deliver these benefits also has cascading effects throughout the economy. According to a 2025 report by the Value of Water Campaign, every \$1 million invested in water infrastructure generates \$2.5 million in economic output, and \$1.4 million worth of GDP growth.

Robust federal investment in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure should be an easy call, but **Congress must act this year** to reauthorize several core water infrastructure programs, including:

- ✓ The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF);
- ✓ The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program;
- ✓ The Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program; and
- ✓ Reducing Lead in Drinking Water grants.

WHY SHOULD CONGRESS FUND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE?

In addition to the broad economic benefits, investing in water also supports other vital sectors – from manufacturing to construction to transportation and warehousing. **But the “ripple effect” of a single day without water service nationwide would cost the U.S. economy nearly \$120 billion, 527,000 jobs, and \$69 billion in GDP.**

Meanwhile, **EPA estimates that the water sector requires more than \$1.2 trillion worth of investment over the next 20 years**, just to maintain current levels of service. Reauthorizing core water infrastructure programs, and then providing them with full funding, will represent a meaningful step toward ensuring Americans have access to the best drinking water in the world.

HOW MUCH IS NEEDED IN FY27?

AMWA recommends strong funding for EPA’s core water and wastewater infrastructure programs in the 2027 fiscal year:

- ✓ Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: \$3.25 billion
- ✓ Clean Water State Revolving Fund: \$3.25 billion
- ✓ Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA): \$80 million
- ✓ Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program: \$50 million
- ✓ Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Grants: \$100 million



www.amwa.net



info@amwa.net



(202) 505-1565



ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN
WATER AGENCIES



HELP ALL AMERICANS ACCESS AFFORDABLE DRINKING WATER — SUPPORT H.R. 4733, THE LIHWAP ESTABLISHMENT ACT

Today, the federal government has no permanent program to help families in need maintain water and wastewater service – even though programs exist to help working class households maintain access to nutrition, energy, and housing costs. **H.R. 4733, the LIHWAP Establishment Act, will close this gap and weave water into the federal social safety net.**

WHAT IS THE NEED?

As many as 21 million households nationwide face challenges in paying their water bills. Aging water infrastructure, cybersecurity threats, and expanded regulatory mandates have contributed to the average residential water bill increasing almost 50% since 2010, and will continue to put additional upward pressure on water rates in the coming years.

WHAT IS LIHWAP?

Congress established the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) in 2021 to help low-income households pay for essential water services, but the program has since expired. According to HHS, over two years LIHWAP served over 1.5 million households nationwide, including by:

- ✓ Preventing 923,583 disconnections
- ✓ Restoring water services 101,687 times
- ✓ Reducing 1,120,417 water bills

Furthermore, data shows that benefits went to households that needed them the most; 59% of households had incomes at or below 75% of the federal poverty level.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Sponsored by Reps. Eric Sorensen (D-Ill.) and Robert Bresnahan (R-Penn.), the **LIHWAP Establishment Act (H.R. 4733) would reauthorize this crucial water and wastewater ratepayer assistance program.** Similar legislation is under development in the Senate, and AMWA asks all members of Congress to support its passage.



www.amwa.net



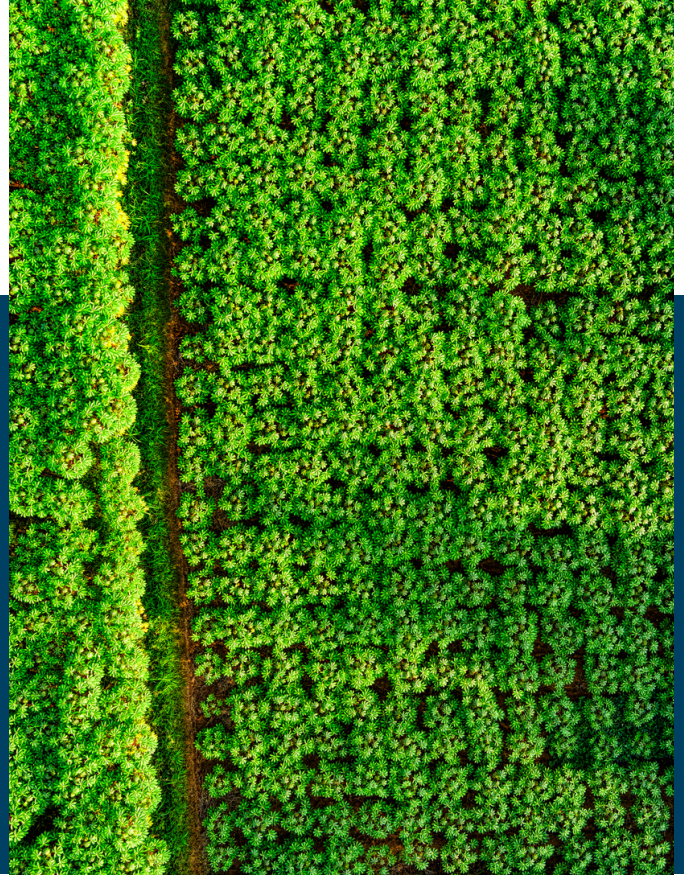
info@amwa.net



(202) 505-1565



ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN
WATER AGENCIES



PROTECT WATER SYSTEMS AGAINST EMERGING THREATS —

SUPPORT H.R. 5566 / S. 3590, THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY ACT

The nation's water and wastewater systems are at risk from extreme weather events and cyber-attacks linked to foreign adversaries. **The Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act (H.R. 5566 / S. 3590) would reauthorize a suite of EPA programs designed to help communities counter these threats.**

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Communities across the United States face escalated threats from extreme weather events and cybersecurity attacks. From severe storms in the East to drought conditions in the West, natural disasters and changes to historical hydrologic conditions pose significant challenges to the nation's drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities. Similarly, an increase in cyber attacks on water systems has created new security concerns. Any of these incidents pose the risk of disrupting water service, and delivering severe economic impacts.

WHY IS ACTION NECESSARY?

In 2021 Congress authorized a suite of EPA programs to help water systems reduce cybersecurity vulnerabilities, increase resilience to natural hazards, conserve water or increase efficiency, design or construct desalination facilities, enhance water supply through watershed management, or form regional water partnerships to address water shortages. However, these programs expire after the 2026 fiscal year.

WHAT IS THE TRACK RECORD?

To date EPA's Resilience and Sustainability programs have made more than \$35 million available to communities in support of projects to build drought resilience, protect against floods and earthquakes, and reduce threats posed by wildfires. The latest round of funding awards are expected to be announced in the spring of 2026.

HOW WOULD NEW LEGISLATION HELP?

Sponsored by Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Calif.) and Sen. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.), H.R. 5566 and S. 3590 would simply reauthorize EPA's resilience and sustainability programs for another five years beyond their scheduled expiration in FY26. This bipartisan bill builds on support the programs have received from congressional appropriators and presidential administrations on both sides of the aisle.

AMWA urges you to support passage of the Water Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Act!



www.amwa.net



info@amwa.net



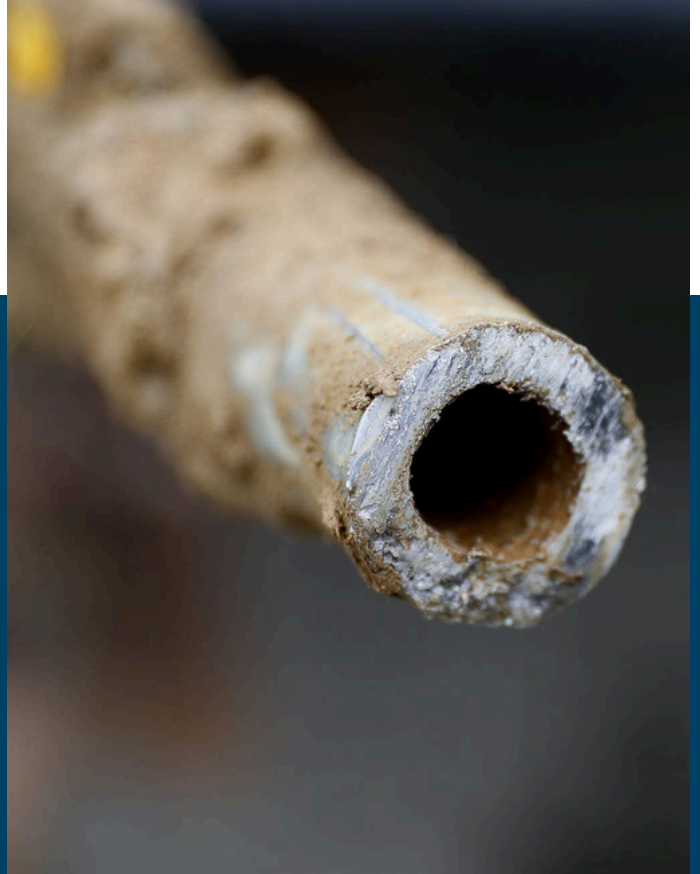
(202) 505-1565



ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN
WATER AGENCIES

CUT RED TAPE AND REPLACE LEAD SERVICE LINES —

SUPPORT H.R. 3892 / S.
2007, THE FINANCING
LEAD OUT OF WATER
(FLOW) ACT



Communities are working hard to meet EPA's 2037 deadline of replacing all remaining lead service lines. EPA's latest data estimates that there are at least 4 million active lead service lines across the country – and these will cost billions of dollars to replace. **The FLOW Act will help ease the burden on communities and water ratepayers.**

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Today, if a water system attempts to finance the full replacement of a lead service line with tax-exempt bonds, it must first obtain a "private letter ruling" from the IRS certifying the amount of bond proceeds that would support work properties that are the location of in-home businesses or rental housing.

These requirements add months of work and expense to the process, as the water utility must document whether each property with a private lead service line is a rental property, or the location of a home-based business. This paperwork burden slows efforts to replace lead service lines.

HOW DOES THE FLOW ACT HELP?

The FLOW Act would simply adjust the federal tax code to allow community water systems to use tax-exempt bonds to pay for private-side lead service line replacement without navigating the IRS red tape. Lead service line replacement projects could more quickly finalize their financing, allowing work to get underway quicker and getting lead pipes out of the ground faster.

WHAT COMES NEXT?

Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-N.Y.) and Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) have introduced H.R. 3892 and S. 2007, the Financing Lead Out of Water (FLOW) Act, and are working to include it in a future tax package.

AMWA urges you to cosponsor the FLOW Act to show your support for this simple, cost-effective way to ease the job of replacing lead service lines.



www.amwa.net



info@amwa.net



(202) 505-1565



ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN
WATER AGENCIES



KEEP WATER SYSTEMS SECURE BY EXPANDING ACCESS TO WATERISAC — SUPPORT H.R. 2344 / S. 1118, THE WATERISAC THREAT PROTECTION ACT

Water and wastewater systems face a range of threats – both in cyberspace and along the physical fence line of their utilities. The water sector offers programs to help water systems remain vigilant, but they are underfunded and their reach is limited. **The WaterISAC Threat Protection Act (H.R. 2344 / S. 1118) would expand access to these critical resources.**

WHAT IS WATERISAC?

The Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting water utilities from natural, physical, and cyber threats. WaterISAC collects, analyzes, and disseminates actionable threat information to the water sector to prevent vulnerabilities to intentional contamination, terrorism, or cyber crimes. However, WaterISAC receives no direct federal funding to sustain operations, and only several hundred of the nation's 50,000 drinking water and 16,000 wastewater systems have full access to the service—potentially leaving thousands of communities vulnerable.

HOW CAN CONGRESS HELP?

With access to WaterISAC, public water systems will receive details on physical, cyber and other threats, tools for analyzing risks, expert threat analysis, and regular advisories and updates. In 2021, Congress authorized a program to support increased access to the energy sector's ISAC. The WaterISAC Threat Protection Act would duplicate this model and apply it to the water sector.

WHAT WOULD THE LEGISLATION DO?

Sponsored by Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) and Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.), the WaterISAC Threat Protection Act would expand WaterISAC participation across the water sector by authorizing an EPA program to increase awareness of WaterISAC and offset membership costs for drinking water and wastewater systems.

This new program will also direct the federal government to encourage eligible entities to participate in WaterISAC and to cooperate with WaterISAC on incident data collection and analysis of threats to the water sector – just like it can do in the energy sector.

The WaterISAC Threat Protection Act will expand the federal partnership with WaterISAC to help more water systems prepare for and mitigate a growing range of physical and cyber threats, and AMWA urges you to support this legislation.



www.amwa.net



info@amwa.net



(202) 505-1565