



Dear NACWA Members –

As we enter into the fall season, the key leadership of the NACWA government affairs staff and I need your attention and action on several key matters that are at critical junctures on Capitol Hill and at EPA. While NACWA staff carries the clean water message as aggressively and effectively as we can, there is no substitute for federal leaders hearing directly from our members – both public and private. As an association, we are strongest when we are all working together to advance shared advocacy goals.

It is with a sense of urgency that we are asking you to weigh in now and regularly throughout this year with these action items:

- Advocate with Congress for the highest levels of funding possible for key clean water programs, including for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Program, in the Fiscal Year 2026 federal budget. Future funding for the CWSRF is especially vulnerable as the current authorizations and appropriations from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) expire next year. It is critical we all tell Congress how important this program is to our local communities and customers. You can use this template letter to do so.
- While you are talking with your Members of Congress, make sure you are also emphasizing to them the importance of establishing a permanent federal Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) to assist low-income households in paying their water and sewer bills. We all know how challenging affordability issues are now for many of our customers, and a federal LIHWAP initiative would help address these pressing concerns. Encourage your Representatives in the House to support the bipartisan LIHWAP legislation (H.R. 4733) that has already been introduced and encourage your Senators, particularly if they are Republicans, to take the lead on similar legislation in the Senate.
- Remind your congressional delegation of the importance of protecting water utilities and other passive receivers from the costs of PFAS liability. Our utilities have not produced nor profited from PFAS, so we and our customers should not have to pay for their cleanup. Encourage your House members to support H.R. 1267, the Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act, which is bipartisan legislation that embraces the polluter pays principle and provides the needed protection for water utilities from PFAS liability under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). And ask your Senators to support similar bipartisan legislation in the Senate.

Administrator Zeldin and EPA have already announced they will abide by the previous Administration's determination that PFOA and PFOS will be classified as hazardous

substances under CERCLA, and in that statement Zeldin called on Congress to abide by the polluter pays principle and carve out needed exemptions from CERCLA liability for passive receivers, including water and wastewater treatment agencies. Administrator Zeldin's message is especially persuasive if you have Republican House or Senate Members you can call on to support liability protection.

- Make sure you are tracking what is happening in your state in terms of potential state legislation and/or regulation around PFAS and report any concerning developments to NACWA. Given the recent media attention on PFAS and the misleading nature of EPA's recent draft risk assessment for PFAS in biosolids, some states are moving ahead rashly with state-level actions on PFAS that are not grounded in risk or solid science and that could have significant negative impacts on clean water utilities, including the potential of biosolids land application bans. NACWA can help weigh in with a national perspective against these state efforts if we are aware of them.
- If you have not done so already, please complete NACWA's member communications survey! Your input to this survey will help inform NACWA's national communications initiative, which is about building tools, messaging, actions, and strategies that clean water utilities can use to better tell your story and raise your profile within your communities. We will be rolling out the deliverables from this initiative in early 2026, but we need to hear your voice and perspective now via our survey – so please complete it!

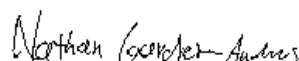
In addition to advocating with your Members of Congress via letters and phone calls, visit them and their staff in their district offices and invite them to visit your treatment plant and receive a facility tour. There is no substitute for engaging directly and in person with your elected leaders, especially by showing them the amazing work you and your staff do every day at your treatment plants. NACWA's Congressional Toolbox has helpful information on how to set up a meeting and plan a facility tour.

The time is now for you and your utility to engage on these issues and help to advance our collective advocacy agenda. You can reach out to me or NACWA's advocacy team leaders listed below at any time with questions or for assistance with outreach. The challenges facing us as a sector are significant, but together we are well positioned to address them.

Thank you for all you do!!



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