



NACWA AT

50 GO SMALL OR GO HOME!

A Message from NACWA's President

NACWA turns 50 in 2020. And like any of us that have had the pleasure of being in our 50s, it takes a lot of hard work and a more tenacious focus to stay vibrant and strong. In this context, NACWA's decision to open its arms and its membership to small clean water utilities a few years ago was such a milestone.

As an Officer of NACWA when the small utility membership issue was taken up by the Board of Directors and now as President, I can tell you we took great care to ensure the dues for small utilities would be affordable and the services they received would be the same as the larger utility members. Our small utility membership has grown rapidly and these utilities have provided us with incredible input and insight, ensuring more informed policy positions across our array of legislative, regulatory, legal and communications issues.

Most importantly, these small utilities have added their voice to our advocacy efforts in Congress and with EPA and other federal agencies. Their voice has helped NACWA advance the ball on numerous issues, including getting a key Senate hold removed that allowed the Integrated Planning amendment to the Clean Water Act to pass into law; helping us ensure that Congress removed harmful PFAS provisions in its defense funding legislation; and ensuring that EPA addresses its outdated 1997 clean water affordability guidance that does not sufficiently take into account low-income communities' ability to pay.

As we look to NACWA's next 50 years, I believe our work to bring small, medium and large utilities together to share best practices and collectively shape policy will prove to be one of the most important initiatives NACWA has ever undertaken.

I encourage you to read the articles in this issue of the *Clean Water Advocate*. Some of the articles were authored by our small utility leaders and offer a window into the growing role of small utilities in the NACWA family and how this will shape a more sustainable path forward.

BY JOHN SULLIVAN | NACWA PRESIDENT
Chief Engineer | Boston Water & Sewer Commission



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JOHN SULLIVAN | NACWA PRESIDENT

