

Extremely Urgent

Fall 2013

Talking points for contacting your House member regarding the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)

Tell Your Congressman

- Who you are and what you do.
- My utility serves [XX,XXX people in your district/state] or
- My company provides vital products/services to water utilities throughout your district and provides jobs for XXXX people.
- A reliable drinking water supply and clean water sanitary systems are essential for a community's economic development, public health, public safety and environmental quality.
- WIFIA is an innovative, loan-based program.
- It was approved by the Senate as part of S. 601, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) by an overwhelming bi-partisan vote.
- WIFIA will significantly help water and waste water utilities and their customers meet water infrastructure finance needs with minimal or no long-term impact on the federal budget, because it is based on loans that are repaid to the federal treasury.
- By holding down the cost of water projects, WIFIA holds down customer water bills.
- The House approved its Water Resources Reform and Development Act, H.R. 3080, on Oct. 23, but without a WIFIA title.
- WIFIA would make direct loans for larger projects, defined as \$20 million for cities with more than 25,000 people or \$5 million for cities with fewer than 25,000 people.
- In addition, WIFIA would offer direct loans to states that wish to aggregate a number of smaller projects to reach the \$20 million (or \$5 million) threshold.
- In this way states can leverage their SRF resources.
- The Senate bill would cap WIFIA's support of a project at 49% of a project's cost. This is copied from a similar transportation program where there are other sources of federal funding. It does not make sense for water projects.
- WIFIA should be able to make loans up to 100% of project cost if the utility demonstrates credit worthiness. Those supporting WIFIA in the House have promised to consider this issue.

Ask Your Congressman

- To support WIFIA legislation
- To contact the representatives below and urge that WIFIA be included in the eventual conference between the House and Senate in the water resources legislation.
 - Rep. Bill Shuster, Penn., Chair of the T&I Committee
 - Rep. Nick Jo Rahall, W.V., Ranking Member of the committee

- Rep. Bob Gibbs, Ohio, Chair of the T&I Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
- Rep. Timothy Bishop, New York, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee
- House Speaker John Boehner, Ohio
- House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, Virginia
- House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, California
- House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, Maryland