

NOWRA Federal Advocacy Efforts

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Political Landscape

- Speaker of the House
- Divided Government, Narrow Margins
- Israel, Ukraine
- Aging Leaders
- Bidenomics vs. High Prices, Inflation, Interest Rates
- Impeachment?
- 2024 election year politics



Policy Landscape



- **Federal Government Funding**
 - Fiscal 2024 Appropriations / Continuing Resolution
- **Expiring Authorizations**
 - Farm Bill
 - Federal Aviation Administration
 - Public Health Programs
 - National Flood Insurance Program
 - Pandemic Preparedness
- **National Defense Authorization Act**
- **Extenders Package?**

NOWRA Advocacy Accomplishments

- Built credibility for NOWRA
- Strengthened relationships with DC allies
- Enacted provisions of the NOWRA Act
- Added wastewater question to future American Community Survey (ACS)
- Expanded USDA's Decentralized Water Systems program & increased funding
- Developed & enacted EPA's Decentralized Wastewater Grant Program



NOWRA Policy Priorities

1. Adequately Fund EPA's Decentralized Wastewater Grant Program
2. Adequately Fund USDA's Decentralized Water Systems Grant & Loan Program
3. Reauthorize USDA's Decentralized Water Systems Grant & Loan Program



Issue Status - Appropriations

1. EPA Decentralized Wastewater Grant Program

- Grants for low- and moderate-income households
- Authorized for up to \$50 million annually
- Has yet to be funded
- House has appropriated \$5 million for Fiscal 2024
- Senate did not fund for Fiscal 2024
- Advocating for Congressional Appropriators to accept the House funding level

2. USDA Decentralized Water Systems Grant Program

- Grants and loans for rural residents
- Authorized for up to \$20 million annually through Fiscal 2023
- Received \$5 million in Fiscal 2021, 2022 & 2023
- House has appropriated \$4 million for Fiscal 2024
- Senate has appropriated \$5 million for Fiscal 2024
- Advocating for Congressional Appropriators to accept the Senate funding level

Issue Status - Reauthorization

USDA Decentralized Water Systems Grant Program

- Grants and loans for rural residents to upgrade wells, decentralized wastewater systems
- Authorized for up to \$20 million annually through Fiscal 2023
- Advocating for:
 - a 5-year program reauthorization
 - a portion of program funds to go to technical assistance for the non-profits that distribute the funds
 - a more descriptive name: Decentralized Rural Water Systems Program



Executive Branch Outreach



- Strengthen Biden Administration relationships
- Lay groundwork with EPA to implement Decentralized Wastewater Grant Program and expand USDA Decentralized Water Systems Grant Program
- Advocate for additional funding opportunities
- Ensure decentralized systems have a role in environmental justice efforts

You Have a First Amendment Job!



Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

With Your Help, NOWRA ...

- Builds and strengthens relationships with Congressional champions and federal agencies
- Secures more federal funding for onsite wastewater treatment
- Prevents federal policies from negatively impacting NOWRA members
- Cultivates industry allies and connects with like-minded stakeholder organizations
- Is positioned to take advantage of public policy opportunities



Next Steps

- **Contact your Representative / Senators and urge their support to fully fund decentralized wastewater programs**
- **Invite your Representative / Senators to visit your company**
- **Contribute money and time to campaigns**
- **Participate in NOWRA's Congressional outreach efforts**





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