**Decentralized Wastewater Treatment …**

**A Sensible Solution**

*Decentralized Wastewater Treatment (also called Onsite or Distributed*

*Wastewater Treatment) offers many advantages. Here are some of them:*

***Serving 85 million Americans…and Counting***

Decentralized wastewater treatment is the *other* wastewater infrastructure, serving more than 25% of Americans. The industry supports as many as 150,000 jobs, mostly in the private sector.In 1997, EPA recognized decentralized wastewater systems as a permanent part of national wastewater infrastructure.

***Environmental Protection***

Decentralized systems effectively remove pollutants, including nitrogen and phosphorus. Their energy footprint is also much smaller than conventional sewage treatment plants.

***Groundwater Recharge***

Because decentralized systems disperse treated water below ground, they not only keep the water within the watershed, they recharge underground aquifers – a rapidly dwindling resource.

***Scalability***

Decentralized systems can be designed to treat any size flow -- from 1,000 gallons per day to more than 1,000,000 gpd. They can serve individual homes, commercial facilities, subdivisions and entire communities.

***The Watershed Agenda***

Decentralized systems are ideal for use within watershed-based management plans. They use natural processes to treat wastewater, keep water within the watershed, create local jobs, and improve the ability of community leaders to achieve positive, cost-effective and environmentally friendly outcomes.

***Protecting Public Health***

Decentralized treatment facilities are designed to meet or exceed public health standards. They can treat effluent to the same standards as centralized sewage treatment plants.

***Network Resilience***

During Superstorm Sandy, most centralized treatment plants were out of service for weeks. By contrast, virtually all large decentralized treatment facilities in the area were down for less than a day.

***Profitability***

Decentralized wastewater treatment systems can usually be built, operated and maintained less expensively than a centralized sewage treatment facility of comparable size.

 ***Just-in-time Construction***

Because decentralized systems are modular, treatment capacity is put where and when it’s needed. This helps keep control over development with local communities.

***Increasing conventional sewer capacity***

In Mobile, AL, the local utility ‘mines’ water from their wastewater pipes, treats it onsite, and then recycles it by irrigating golf courses, parks, and other open spaces.

***Recycling & Reuse***

Decentralized systems disperse treated water below ground, eventually filtering into the aquifer as clean water. Plus, since these systems treat water onsite where it is generated, it also makes reuse (e.g., toilet flushing, irrigation, etc.) more economical for homes and businesses.

***Congress Should Support Wider Use of This Green Technology***

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