TSG ADVOCATES

NOWRA Advocacy Update

2026 Mega-Conference

October 26, 2026

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TSG Advocates
Washington, D.C.



Mission: Advance sustainable decentralized wastewater infrastructure through advocacy and professional development to protect public and environmental health

NOWRA

National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association



Onsite and decentralized wastewater

25%

Existing U.S. homes
About 32 million

31%

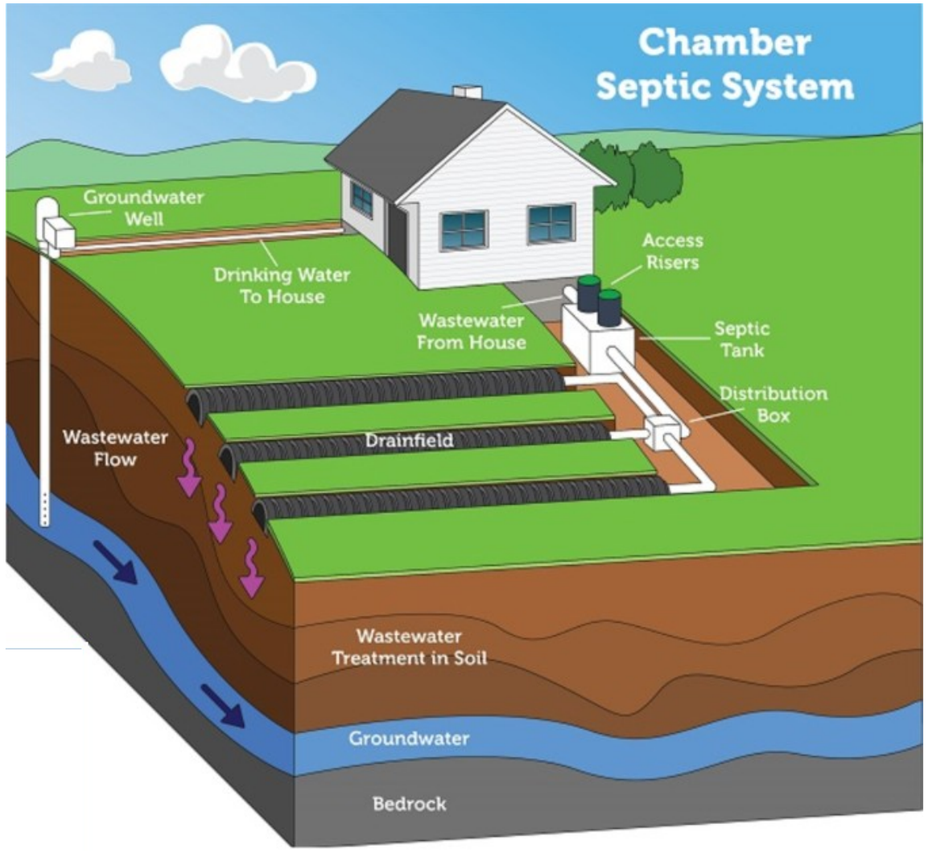
New single-family homes
NOWRA estimate

$74.7B

Decentralized needs
EPA 2022 CWNS

11.9%

Share of all documented clean-water needs



Treatment close to home. Solutions for unsewered communities.

Proper design, siting, and maintenance protect public health and water quality.

Usage: NOWRA-supplied estimates. Needs: EPA 2022 CWNS, January 2022 dollars.

2026 NOWRA policy priorities

CWSRF formula modernization

Advance the Clean Water Allotment Modernization Act (S. 5016).

FY2027 appropriations

Seek support for USDA's Rural Decentralized Water Systems Grant Program and EPA decentralized wastewater funding.

Septic Exclusion for Property Owners through Tax-free Infrastructure Compensation (SEPTIC) Act (H.R. 8280)

Would exclude qualifying state or local residential wastewater subsidies from federal gross income.

EPA engagement and state funding access

Strengthen the MOU partnership and identify barriers to project financing.

RICK SCOTT
FLORIDA'S U.S. SENATOR



Sens. Rick Scott, Mark Kelly Introduce Clean Water Allotment Modernization Act

July 17, 2026

S. 5016: introduced July 16, 2026

How CWAMA would change state allotments?

60%

Documented needs
from the latest CWNS

20%

State population

20%

Poverty measure
At or below 200% FPL

Timing
Follows the first CWNS published after enactment
Four-year transition for state allotments

Funding
Does not direct Congressional SRF appropriations
Existing IIJA infrastructure funds and their allocations remain unaffected

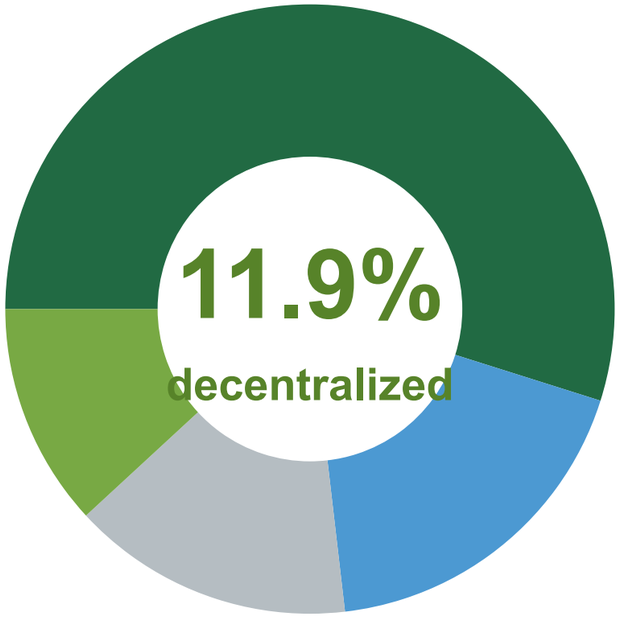
NOWRA Advocacy
Stakeholder support letter to Senate EPW leaders

Why NOWRA champions CWAMA

$74.7 billion

Decentralized needs in the 2022 CWNS

- Makes documented decentralized needs count in federal state allotments
- Updates a formula unchanged since 1987 to reflect today's needs and population
- Supports better needs documentation through an optional state survey allowance



2022 documented needs: $630.1B total

Other wastewater	$345.7B
Stormwater	$115.3B
Non-point source	$94.4B
Decentralized	$74.7B

The Big Picture

Political landscape

- Midterm election: November 3
- Post-election legislative window
- Congressional control shapes committee leadership and priorities
- Bipartisan support remains central to NOWRA's agenda

Policy landscape

- FY2027 appropriations
- Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) reauthorization
- Farm Bill reauthorization
- Other year-end legislative vehicles, as opportunities arise

Election impact on NOWRA priorities

Republicans retain House and Senate

- Potential continuity in policy priorities
- Leadership and staff may still change

Democrats win one chamber

- Different agendas across chambers
- Greater potential for oversight
- Negotiation needed to advance legislation

Democrats win both chambers

- Committee agendas and oversight may shift
- Agreement with the administration still needed



NOWRA's priorities after the election

- Clean Water Allotment Modernization Act
  - Pursue WRDA inclusion or another viable legislative path
  - Expand bipartisan support for a needs-based formula
- USDA Rural Decentralized Water Systems Grant Program
  - Advocate for FY2027 resources and program improvements
- SEPTIC Act and EPA engagement

What can you do?

- Reach out to your U.S. Senators and U.S. House Members
- Show how decentralized wastewater protects clean water and supports housing in your community
- Ask Congress to support CWAMA, USDA/EPA resources and the SEPTIC Act
- Ask your state CWSRF program how local projects can access assistance

Thank you!