

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2506

October 27, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to invite you to join the newly-formed, bipartisan Decentralized Wastewater Recycling Congressional Caucus. According to a January 2015 survey by the State Onsite Regulators Alliance, more than 85 million Americans – 26% of the population – rely on decentralized recycling systems to treat their wastewater.

The decentralized wastewater recycling systems provide sewage treatment when central sewerage treatment is impractical or unsuitable. The most widely known examples are septic systems; however, there are a wide range of decentralized treatment technologies.

Decentralized wastewater recycling employs as many as 150,000 people, virtually all of whom work for small businesses in the private sector and are spread out throughout the nation. These include not only the companies which manufacture the components of decentralized systems, but also the engineers who design the systems and the contractors who install, operate, and maintain them.

These systems are an effective solution to protecting water quality. Decentralized wastewater treatment systems can benefit both urban and rural areas by providing affordable solutions and reducing risk to the environment. Their recycling capability can also support water resource management in arid areas of the country.


While decentralized treatment systems offer many benefits, they suffer from the same types of challenges faced by their centralized treatment counterparts – aging and failing infrastructure, inadequate management, attracting and training qualified professionals to the industry, and educating the public on their role in wastewater management. The industry faces myriad challenges which have not received sufficient focus from federal stakeholders.

We ask that you help us bring attention to the challenges facing decentralized wastewater recycling and join our bipartisan caucus. If you would like more information or want to add your boss as a member of the caucus, please contact Nick Christensen (nick.christensen@mail.house.gov / 225-7041) with Rep. Sam Graves or Christina Mahoney (christina.mahoney@mail.house.gov / 225-4535) with Rep. Emanuel Cleaver.

Sincerely,



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress