



West Virginia Rural Water Association

100 Young Street • Scott Depot, WV 25560-7839 • 304/201-1689

November 16, 2021

Congressman David B. McKinley
2239 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McKinley,

On behalf of the West Virginia Rural Water Association's (WVRWA) 245 water and wastewater utility system members serving small and rural communities across the Mountain State, we are writing to extend our appreciation to you, Representative McKinley, for voting for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R.3684) which will be of great benefit to rural West Virginia.

The historic legislation includes approximately \$55 billion for EPA water programs. There are numerous helpful provisions throughout the bill such as increased funding for West Virginia's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (\$223 million for WV), Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (\$143 Million), a new dedicated lead service line replacement fund, principal forgiveness, or grants for PFAS remediation, grants to small and disadvantaged communities to target emerging contaminants, just to name a few.

WVRWA also applauds Rep. McKinley's leadership throughout this process to secure more that \$350 million to modernize and fix aging water and sewer systems while also fighting for no new or increased taxes. This legislation does not include any new federal mandates on local governments. West Virginia's small and rural communities have more difficulty affording public drinking water and wastewater service due to lack of population density and lack of economies of scale. Likewise, they have a much more challenging time complying with federal Clean Water Act (CWA) permits and Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) regulations.

Finally, WVRWA is excited to leverage the enhanced technical assistance funding included in H.R. 3684. West Virginia's small and rural communities have relied on local, on-site technical assistance and training for compliance with the myriad of federal EPA regulations, avoiding EPA fines, and operating drinking water and wastewater supplies. According to our membership, EPA-funded local initiatives are the most effective environmental protection efforts for drinking water & wastewater, ground water, source water, and compliance with the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. As you know, small communities want to ensure quality water and stay in compliance—West Virginia Rural Water Association provides them the shared technical resources to do it.

This bill is, indeed, a win for West Virginia. Thank you very much Representative McKinley and congratulations.

Todd Grinstead
Executive Director
West Virginia Rural Water Association