



**American Water Works
Association**

Utility Member Benefit

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The Authoritative Resource for Safe Water[®]

Legislative Alert

**TO: AWWA Section Government Affairs Contacts
All Utilities**

FROM: AWWA Government Affairs

DATE: June 3, 2010

What: Calls, e-mails needed to House of Representatives in support of H.R. 5320, SRF bill

Who: Contact your district's representative

When: June 3, 2010

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce on May 26 approved H.R. 5320, the Assistance, Quality and Affordability Act of 2010, and sent it to the full House.

The bill would authorize increased funding for the state revolving loan fund (SRF) program and make a number of administrative changes in the program. Those funding levels would be:

- \$1.4 billion the first year,
- \$1.6 billion the second,
- and \$1.8 billion the third.

The SRF program usually receives \$750 million to \$850 million annually, although it did see an increase to \$1.38 billion last year. H.R. 5320 authorizes spending, but does not actually appropriate funds, which will require further lobbying efforts.

The bill does give greater weight to loan applicants who can demonstrate efforts toward greater financial and managerial responsibility, something AWWA has sought in the past. While the bill does mention issues outside of infrastructure funding — endocrine disruptors and pharmaceuticals — the burden is on the EPA to produce studies on such issues.

This bill could get on the fast-track for floor time in the House, and there might be a breakthrough on the Senate SRF bill as well, which has been stalled since last summer. This Senate counterpart, S. 1005, is an even better bill from the perspective of the AWWA Water Utility Council.

If your representatives are still in their home districts for the Memorial Day recess, there may be opportunities to talk to them in person. Below is a template letter to use in e-mail or as an aide during phone calls or meetings.

For more information please contact Tommy Holmes in the AWWA Government Affairs Office at tholmes@awwa.org or (202) 326-6128.

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June 3, 2010

The Honorable XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXX
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,

I urge you to vote for H.R. 5320, the Assistance, Quality and Affordability Act, when it comes to the House floor this summer. This bill would authorize badly needed new loan funds to help rebuild our nation's drinking water infrastructure and make administrative improvements to the bill.

H.R. 5320 passed the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on a bipartisan, 45-1 vote in May, which shows how worthy this legislation is.

This bill increases authorized capitalization funds for the state revolving loan fund (SRF) program. As the name implies, this program provides low-cost loans to local public water systems. When the money is repaid, it is used to expand the pool of low-cost funding for additional communities. As you know, a safe, reliable drinking water supply is necessary not only for public health and safety, but for the feasibility of economic growth itself.

[Optional]

Our water utility has used SRF funding to XXXXXXXX, creating XXX jobs and providing heightened public health protection to our fellow citizens.

I look forward to hearing from you on this legislation.

Sincerely,