



**American Water Works
Association**

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The Authoritative Resource on Safe WaterSM

To: AWWA Government Affairs contacts

From: Tommy Holmes, AWWA Legislative Director

Date: June 3, 2010

Re: **Calls, e-mails needed to House of Representatives in support of SRF bill**

Action Requested: Please contact your own representatives in the U.S. House to urge them to vote for H.R. 5320 when it comes to the House floor

Background: The House Committee on Energy and Commerce has approved HR 5320, the Assistance, Quality and Affordability Act of 2010, and sent it to the full House. This bill would increase funding for the state revolving loan fund (SRF) program and make a number of administrative changes in the program.

The bill would authorize increased funding for the SRF program to \$4.8 billion over three years, with \$1.4 billion the first year, \$1.6 billion the second and \$1.8 billion the third. The SRF program for many years averaged receiving \$750 million to \$850 million, although this past year, funding was increased to \$1.38 billion. Admittedly, in HR 5320 we are talking about authorized spending, not actual appropriations, which will require further lobbying efforts.

The bill does give greater weight to loan applicants that can demonstrate efforts toward greater financial and managerial responsibility, something we have sought in the past. While the bill does stray into endocrine disruptors and pharmaceuticals, the burden is on EPA to produce studies on these issues.

We think this bill could get on the fast track for floor time in the House. As you saw in our Washington Report, there might be a breakthrough on the Senate SRF bill, which is an even better bill from our perspective. If your representatives are in their home districts for the Memorial Day recess, there may be opportunities to talk to representatives in person. The AWWA Water Utility Council also supports S. 1005, the Senate counterpart.

I have attached a template letter to use in an e-mail or for as an aide for phone calls or meetings. Another copy is below.

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June XX, 2010

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

Dear Representatives 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 out of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on a bipartisan, 45-1 vote in May, which shows what a worthy piece of legislation this is.

This bill increases authorized capitalization funds for the state revolving loan fund (SRF) program. As the name says, this is a program that 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 economic growth to be even possible.

[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