

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 6, 2017

Hon. Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Tom Cole
Chairman
House Subcommittee Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and Related
Agencies
2458 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and Related
Agencies
2458 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Thank you for your past support of the Rural Community Facilities Technical Assistance program authorized under section 680(a)(3)(B) of the Community Services Block Grant Act and administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). As you are aware, this program has helped hundreds of small rural communities since its establishment over three decades ago. We are writing to request a Fiscal Year 2018 appropriation of \$7.5 million, which is the amount included for this account in the House Fiscal Year 2017 Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations Bill (H.R. 5926).

The Rural Community Facilities program has impacted the lives of families and businesses in a real way, improving access to clean water and adequate waste disposal systems to small towns and farming communities across rural America. The principal grantees of the Rural Facilities technical assistance are six regional, nonprofit organizations – Rural Community Assistance Partnerships (RCAPs). RCAPs work with small communities with an average population of approximately 1,000 people that are struggling to maintain and update their wastewater and drinking water systems.

Adequate water and waste disposal systems are essential elements in building a community, improving its economy, creating jobs and reducing poverty. Without clean water or adequate water infrastructure, opportunities for economic growth are limited, and the development of housing, schools, and commercial and industrial facilities is nearly impossible.

Many communities rely on the Rural Community Facilities Technical Assistance program. The services financed through this program are as critical as ever, and it is our hope that you will

fund this program at the level included in the House Fiscal Year 2017 Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations Bill (H.R. 5926).

Thank you for your support and attention to this matter. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Richard M. Nolan,
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



Robin Kelly
Member of Congress



Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen ^{M.C.}
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



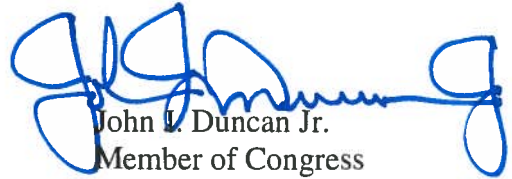
Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



John J. Faso
Member of Congress



John L. Duncan Jr.
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenaur
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
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Rick Crawford
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Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
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Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
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G. K. Butterfield
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Peter DeFazio
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Lynn Jenkins
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Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
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Bill Shuster
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Robert Pittinger
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Jim Costa
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James P. McGovern
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Don Young
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Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Stacey Plaskett
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress