



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RCAP Leads Coalition Letter to Capitol Hill in Strong Support of the USDA Water/Wastewater Loan and Grant Program

Washington, DC – This week, the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) Inc. in partnership with the National Rural Water Association and the American Water Works Association, led a coalition letter to the U.S. Senate and House Appropriations Committees urging strong support for the USDA Water and Wastewater Loan and Grant Program for fiscal year 2018.

In most rural communities, the USDA Water and Wastewater Loan and Grant Program is the only affordable financing source for critical infrastructure. This program provides rural America with 40 year loans for critical infrastructure, which is critical for rural communities where other loan programs are not economically feasible. More importantly, this program does not duplicate other federal programs or financing sources. Grant funds are applied to high cost projects to reduce user rates to affordable levels. Other federal financing programs and commercial lenders limit loan terms to 20 years—leading to unaffordable user rates for rural customers. Capital improvement projects in many small communities are not economically feasible without USDA financing.

“In order to create economic opportunities for every American, investments in infrastructure projects are vital to creating job growth, especially in rural communities. USDA’s continued commitment to affordable financing for water infrastructure projects in rural communities is crucial to ensuring that every American has access to safe drinking water.” said Nathan Ohle, RCAP’s Executive Director. “Often the water infrastructure in a rural community is the single largest investment a community will make. The best way to ensure long-term economic growth in some of the country’s most distressed regions is to ensure that these communities can continue to invest in their water infrastructure.”

Below is the full list of national organizations that signed on to the letter:

Rural Community Assistance Partnership Inc.
National Rural Water Association
American Water Works Association
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
Water Environment Federation
Association of Regional Water Organizations
National Association of Clean Water Agencies



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About the Rural Community Assistance Partnership:

The Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) is a national network of six regional RCAPs, which include the Midwest Assistance Program (MAP), Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), RCAP Solutions, WSOS Community Action Commission (Great Lakes RCAP), Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (SERCAP), and Communities Unlimited (CU) working to ensure that rural and small communities through the United States have access to safe drinking water and sanitary wastewater disposal. The Partnership provides a variety of programs to accomplish this goal, such as direct training and technical assistance.

For more information, visit www.rcap.org or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

