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## **RCAP Endorses Pair of Bills Aimed at Increasing Infrastructure Funding and Promoting Water Affordability in Rural America**

*Washington, DC* – The Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) announces its support and endorsement of two new bills, the *Low-Income Water Consumer Assistance Programs Act of 2017* (LIWCAP) and the *Securing Required Funding for Water Infrastructure Now Act of 2017* (SRF WIN).

The *Low-Income Water Consumer Assistance Programs Act of 2017* (LIWCAP), sponsored by Senator Ben Cardin of Maryland, amends both the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act to establish a much-needed pilot program which will help eligible low-income households in both urban and rural areas with water and wastewater bill repayment. RCAP supports this legislation because it will help address the growing water affordability challenges that communities of all sizes face. Affordability challenges continue to grow as communities face increasing costs of compliance and corrective actions, aging infrastructure, expanding debt service obligations, and, in many rural areas, a declining service area population and industry base.

The *Securing Required Funding for Water Infrastructure Now Act of 2017*, sponsored by Senator John Boozman of Arkansas, amends the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) to allow state infrastructure financing authorities to receive additional resources to support both the Drinking Water and clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs), which are critical to funding water projects in all communities across the United States. RCAP believes SRF WIN will help small communities access additional WIFIA and SRF funding for much needed water and wastewater infrastructure upgrades integral to economic growth in rural America, a crucial piece of a rural community's ability to create economic growth and well-being for their community.

“RCAP believes both pieces of legislation are integral to achieving long-term sustainability of rural communities and water/wastewater systems throughout the United States, while ensuring that all Americans have access to clean, safe, and affordable drinking water. RCAP will continue to support legislation that provides opportunities for rural communities to thrive,” says Nathan Ohle, Executive Director of RCAP.

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Rural Community Assistance Partnership is a national network of six regional non-profit organizations working to ensure that rural and small communities throughout the country have access to safe drinking water and sanitary wastewater disposal. The RCAP network provides a variety of programs to accomplish this goal, including direct training and on the ground technical assistance. For more information, visit [www.rcap.org](http://www.rcap.org)