

May 9, 2018

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Doug Jones
United States Senate
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Booker, Capito, and Jones:

On behalf of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) and the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA), we are writing to thank you for introducing the “Residential Decentralized Wastewater System Improvement Act of 2018 (S. 2771)” legislation.

Specifically, we support your efforts to establish a new program under the Clean Water Act to provide grants to low- and moderate-income households for connecting homes to existing wastewater infrastructure or installing or upgrading individually-owned decentralized wastewater systems.

As you know, more than a million homes across the U.S. lack adequate plumbing, and nearly 200,000 homes lack a sewage system altogether according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This bipartisan legislation will help solve this challenge by expanding upon existing federal programs to provide grant money that can be used to help fund wastewater systems for those most in need.

Additionally, we believe this bill will protect the health and safety of individuals on septic systems, the source water communities use, and the overall environment. We look forward to working with you to include this legislation in the upcoming America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 to ensure that the needs of rural communities and low-income communities from around the country are met.

We commend your ongoing bipartisan commitment to addressing America’s substantial infrastructure needs. This legislation is vital to protecting the public health and the vitality of communities across our nation. We stand ready to work with you and your Senate colleagues to ensure this legislation is passed.

Sincerely,



Nathan Ohle
Executive Director
Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP), Inc.



Eric Casey
Executive Director
National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA)