

YOUR WORDS GO A LONG WAY

By Pat Scalera, CEO,
New York Rural Water Association



This message is to thank all those that took time to write us about the importance of our programs to you, whether it be training, on-site technical assistance, source water protection and groundwater protection planning. Your words go a long way!!

A special thanks for those who volunteered to accompany me around the state to visit one-on-one with your Congressional Leaders and their top Aides to carry your message on how NY Rural Water Association programs have assisted you and your communities.

These individuals took time out of their busy schedules to explain why Rural Water training events are needed and how our technical staff has provided cost savings assistance to you and your communities.

Our efforts to ensure the continuation of these important programs comes down to a "State Delegation Letter" that will go to the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee that authorizes the funding for these programs. Our goal was to get all New York State Congressional Representatives to sign on to this letter, which was cosponsored by Congressman McHugh and Congressman McNulty. We praise these two environmentally proactive Congressmen for taking the lead on this letter campaign, because we believe they know how important it is to have our water and wastewater professionals receive what they need to keep up with all the rules and regulations on running their treatment plants and providing safe drinking water to our small communities of New York State, our families, friends, and neighbors.

The New York Rural Water Association is supported by over 1400 members of this organization and we are hopeful that will include all 29 Congressional Representatives and our two U.S. Senators.

We will keep you posted on those Representatives that sign on to support our programs and your needs to keep safe drinking water flowing. So if you see that your Congressional Representative has signed on, be sure to express your appreciation of their support by contacting their district office to thank them.

As I am writing and submitting this article it is February 22nd and the following have signed on:

Congressman John McHugh – 23rd District (Lead)
Congressman Michael McNulty – 21st District (Lead)

Congressman Tim Bishop – 1st District
Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy – 4th District
Congressman Gary Ackerman – 5th District
Congressman Edolphus Towns – 10th District
Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney – 14th District
Congressman Eliot Engel – 17th District
Congresswoman Sue Kelly – 19th District
Congressman Sherwood Boehlert – 24th District
Congressman James Walsh – 25th District
Congressman Brian Higgins – 27th District
Congresswoman Louise McIntosh Slaughter – 28th Dist.
Congressman Randy Kuhl – 29th District
Congressman Thomas Reynolds - 26th District

I will keep you posted as the list grows through our monthly newsletter.

We will continue this effort on March 1st when we fly to Washington, DC to meet with key representatives including Congressman Sweeney, Congressman Walsh, Congresswoman Lowey, Congressman Serrano, Congressman Hinchey and Senators Clinton and Schumer.

I wish to thank John Mokszycki from the Town of Greenport, Joe Bisignano from the Village of Saugerties, Bill Culligan from the Town of Thompson, and Phil Perry from the Village of Lake Placid for taking time out of their busy schedules to go to Washington, DC in support of our programs. ♡