

DEAR MEMBERS

John O'Connell, III | NYRWA President

As we approach a new administration in Washington, DC, it is inherent on each of us to capitalize on our strengths to educate new congressional representatives and agency heads with a clear message of our industry, its needs and your association's representation. It is this combined strength that has served our rural and district systems well in the past and will continue to in the future.

Often times we successfully conquer a challenge and our attention is then focused on the next big issue in our industry. Our thoughts about the future challenges brought to mind some of the major successes your support of our Association has made possible in the past, listed below.

1987 – NRWA legislative efforts gave RUS borrowers the option to repurchase their loans at discounted rates when a portion of the RUS loan portfolio was sold to the open market at discounted rates – systems saved \$1 Billion Dollars.

NRWA legislative efforts have increased available funding every appropriations year since the early 1990s when the level dropped to \$100 million grant and \$300 million loan authority.

Legislation to block grant RUS funding defeated by NRWA.

1995 re-authorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act. NRWA legislative support was responsible for:

- Elimination of requirement that 13 contaminants be regulated every 3 years;
- Creating of the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund;
- Monitoring flexibility.

NRWA legislative efforts have provided RUS one-time funding for the application backlog in each Farm Bill.

NRWA legislative efforts were responsible for the inclusion of funding for rural and small systems in the ARRA funding legislation. There was none proposed in the initial legislation.

Many regulatory mandates have been prevented and/or made more practical, as well as, saving hundreds-of-millions of dollars (est.) such as; but not limited to:

- Electronic CCRs \$126,000,000 (AWQR)
- Revised Total Coliform Rule \$25,678,187
- Non-regulatory Cybersecurity Policy \$146,629,000
- Community Fire Safety Act (fire hydrant retention) \$3,000,000,000

As the first President of NRWA said in a 1981 interview when asked why Rural Water is successful, his response holds true

today, "It is the same that we employ in our business, our lives, and other avenues that we are concerned about. That is total commitment. This commitment is fueled by our persistent and dedicated pledge to help people obtain a dependable supply of water."

NYRWA members with your support, your loyalty and your involvement, we will meet the challenge of future changes and continue to provide the best quality drinking water in the world at affordable prices.

Please feel free to give me a call at any time to discuss any issues we can be of assistance in.

Sincerely,

John O'Connell,

President of the NYRWA Board of Directors 💧💧
