



# NEW YORK DELEGATION GOES TO WASHINGTON, DC

Pat Scalera | CEO, NYRWA

This past February 2014, a New York Delegation went to Washington, DC, to meet with our representatives in the Senate and House to ask for their support of the programs that provide training and technical assistance to small water and wastewater communities that provide assistance with source water protection efforts, and to ensure that there are loans and grants available for water and wastewater projects.

Over the course of two days, our delegation met with the majority of Congressional leaders and our two Senator offices to encourage their support. During our meetings, Congressman Gibson offered to lead a Dear Colleague Letter in support of our funding requests and asked that we encourage others to join him with their signature. We truly appreciate Congressman Gibson's leadership role with this effort. He has seen the work we do in the field up close and personal when Hurricane's Lee and Irene hit New York State hard. Our field staff were the first responders to assist our rural communities in getting back up and running by providing the necessary services these flooded communities desperately needed.

Our Circuit Riders/Wastewater Technicians/Source Water Protection Specialist are here to provide the primary assistance to small communities to operate safe and clean drinking water supplies, healthy sanitation services and comply with regulations. Our assistance protects the sizeable investment the federal government has made in rural water and wastewater infrastructure. Our field staff helps systems with compliance, operations, maintenance, management and training.

At the time of this writing, we wish to thank the following who signed on their support – Congressman Gibson, Congresswoman Slaughter, Congressman Tonko, Congressman Collins, and Congressman Maloney. In addition, we are aware that Congressman Reed put our program funding in his personal request.

We are hopeful the appropriations will continue to fund our programs allowing us to continue to provide our services to all of the small water and wastewater systems. 💧💧💧



Pictured is Jason Opferbeck, Village of Cattaraugus meeting with Drew Wayne from Congressman Reed's Office.



Pictured is Jason Opferbeck from the Village of Cattaraugus, Florence Braunius from the Village of Speculator; Congressman Chris Gibson – 19th District; and CEO for NYRWA Pat Scalera. Congressman

Gibson stepped out of his hearing to meet with our delegation and agreed to lead a letter of support for Rural Water.



Pictured again is Jason Opferbeck, Florence Braunius and Congressman Bill Owens, who is a Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee and has consistently supported Rural Water Initiatives.