

On behalf of the country's leading groundwater associations and advocates, we are writing to encourage you to support our nation's water wells in any upcoming infrastructure legislation that advances through Congress. The National Ground Water Association and our partners are the most respected non-profit associations representing water well contractors, groundwater scientists, engineers, and practitioners. We know firsthand the important role private and municipal water wells play in communities across the country, especially in rural and underserved areas.

Homeowners should also have the option for assistance to fix or replace their wells to meet applicable standards and apply cost-effective household treatment if necessary.

Today, we are asking for your commitment to support amending the Safe Drinking Water Act to allow grant funding for rural and disadvantaged communities to update their water well infrastructure for continued cost-effective local management, household savings, and increased water quality.

To better improve our nation's water well infrastructure, we are first proposing that the rehabilitation, deepening, and replacement of water wells be grant eligible for small and disadvantaged communities within the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Amending the Safe Water Act to allow grant funding for the rehabilitation, deepening, and replacement of water wells would:

- Allow homeowners in rural and disadvantaged areas more options to cost-effectively manage their water source locally.
- Increase water quality in rural and disadvantaged communities.
- Save state and federal financial assistance funds to be applied to other communities' water infrastructure needs.

Here, we will outline some facts about groundwater and water wells:

- There are over 15 million residential water wells in the United States serving over 40 million people, most in small and rural communities.
- Replacing and rehabilitating water wells is a more cost-effective choice for both homeowners and communities in sustaining the nation's water infrastructure.
- Replacing and rehabilitating water wells is often the best long-term solution to increasing water quality for communities and homeowners.
- Most all rural and disadvantaged communities in the country rely on water wells for water supply.

Water wells play a vital role in our nation's water infrastructure although there is an unfortunate lack of federal funding made available to states, communities, and non-profit organizations to update water wells in rural and disadvantaged areas through rehabilitation or replacement. While connecting homeowners to public water systems is certainly an option, it is often one that comes at great expense to the homeowner and the community, which raises the cost of water supply for everyone. It is also a less efficient form of water delivery since pipelines leak on average 16 percent of the water they distribute.

For more information on the importance of water wells and sources for data, please visit:
www.smartwaterpolicies.org.

We have also attached an informational packet outlining the importance of supporting water well infrastructure through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any additional questions and we will be following up by phone.

Sincerely,
The National Ground Water Association
The Groundwater Foundation
The California Groundwater Association
Illinois Association of Groundwater Professionals
The Michigan Ground Water Association
The Minnesota Water Well Association
The Montana Water Well Drillers Association
North Carolina Ground Water Association
South Atlantic JUBILEE
South Carolina Groundwater Association
Virginia Water Well Association