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ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115
Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641
March 27, 2015

Mr. Robert Stewart
Executive Director
Rural Community Assistance Partnership
1701 K Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy on Friday, February 27, 2015, to testify at the hearing entitled "The Needs of Drinking Water Systems in Rural and Smaller Communities."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Friday, April 10, 2015. Your responses should be mailed to Nick Abraham, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to Nick.Abraham@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



John Shimkus
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy

cc: The Honorable Paul Tonko, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy

Attachment

Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable John Shimkus

1. You mention the need for “robust” training programs for operators, managers, and community leaders.
 - a. What do you believe constitutes the elements of a “robust” program?
 - b. Is your vision of this “robust” program viable in the current climate?
 - c. Can small and rural communities sustain the items this training provides?
2. You mention that training should be delivered electronically in order to reach a larger audience for lower costs.
 - a. What types of those options exist right now?
 - b. Is RCAP partnering with information technology companies to expand the effective use of this medium?
3. Your testimony talks about the capital challenge of rural communities if their local economies are not strong. Is there an economic trend that is occurring the communities that RCAP aids?
4. Your testimony states that “[a]pproximately 96% of all health based violations occur at systems serving a population of less than 10,000 while less than a third of the SRF outlays are directed at these same small systems.” Do spending requirements or conditions placed on SRF funds prevent smaller and rural communities from maximizing the full benefit of these monies?
5. You state that “common environmental review requirements among... would be one area for improvement.” Please detail for us some examples?
6. Your testimony calls for an increase in the total amount of Safe Drinking Water Act technical assistance grants. Considering the Federal government has increasingly fewer resources for greater worthwhile needs, can you identify potential places to redirect funds within the Safe Drinking Water Act to offset the increase in these technical assistance grants?