

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115
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April 3, 2017

Mr. Randy Ellingboe
Manager
Drinking Water Protection Section
Minnesota Department of Health
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

Dear Mr. Ellingboe,

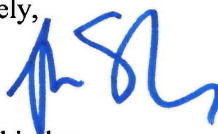
Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Environment on March 16, 2017, to testify at the hearing entitled "Reinvestment and Rehabilitation of Our Nation's Safe Drinking Water Delivery Systems."

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 by the close of business on Tuesday, April 18, 2017. Your responses should be mailed to Grace Appelbe, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to Grace.Appelbe@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

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

Attachment

Questions for the Record

The Honorable John Shimkus

1. Currently, the Safe Drinking Water Act's Revolving Loan Fund requires the States to match Federal capitalization grants with 20 percent of their own funding.
 - a. At what amount of Federal capitalization spending, would the state match requirement become a burden the States could not meet?
2. Aside from the issue of asset management, what are some lessons learned about what has worked well in incentivizing systems to make solid investments and upgrades and what have you seen work as disincentives?
3. What kinds of contributions do States make in encouraging the rehabilitation and redevelopment of drinking water delivery systems?
4. The EPA distributes funds to each Drinking Water State Revolving Fund following a formula based on each state's identified drinking water infrastructure needs.
 - a. Is the funding formula for how the EPA allocates money to the states sufficiently transparent?
 - b. Do you think the allocation formula is working as Congress intended it to?
 - c. Generally speaking, how long does it take for a State to allocate the annual State Revolving Loan capitalization funding provided to it by the Federal Government?
5. The Drinking Water State Revolving Funds are designed, as the name suggests, to revolve, meaning that the money received from repayment of outstanding loans is to be used to make additional loans.
 - a. From your experience, are Drinking Water State Revolving Funds working as intended? Meaning, is the money being paid back into the loan allowing for additional loans to be made?
6. An important component of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund is the set-aside program, which allows states to use a portion of State Revolving Funds for programs and activities to ensure safe drinking water.
 - a. Can you give a few examples for how States are using set-asides?
 - b. Do you think the current set-aside provisions and requirements are successful and working as Congress intended?
7. You testified that you support a mandatory requirement being added to the Safe Drinking Water Act that asset management planning be done by entities obtaining Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loans. Is this view the formal position of ASDWA? Does ASDWA support making such a move mandatory as opposed to otherwise encouraging it?