

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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June 9, 2017

Mr. Scott Potter
Director
Nashville Metro Water Services
1700 Third Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37208

Dear Mr. Potter:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Environment on Friday, May 19, 2017, to testify at the hearing entitled "H.R. __, Drinking Water System Improvement Act and Related Issues of Funding, Management, and Compliance Assistance under the Safe Drinking Water Act."

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, June 23, 2017. Your responses should be mailed to Elena Brennan, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to Elena.Brennan@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

Attachment – Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable John Shimkus

1. Safe Drinking Water Act Section 1433 calls on community water systems to conduct vulnerability assessments of their systems to terrorist attack or other intentional acts designed to disrupt the ability of the water system to provide a safe and reliable supply of drinking water.
 - a. How recently has your utility reviewed and updated your vulnerability assessment?
 - b. Is your utility unique among your peers in reviewing your vulnerability assessment without a government mandate to do so?
2. I appreciate the forthrightness of your testimony when it comes to suggesting a guideline for what your organization believes is the correct number to fund the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund. Does it matter to you whether the number is flat in each fiscal year – meaning it would be the same each year -- or having it steadily increase every year?
3. Your colleague, Rudy Chow from Baltimore, MD, in a written response to a question from our last drinking water hearing, mentioned that codifying the EPA’s current practice for Consumer Confidence Reports is among the more significant, non-financial areas where Congress can assist drinking water systems. Can you explain that point for me?
4. Your testimony mentions that there are places in the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund program that do not need “top-to-bottom overhaul.” So that Congress does no harm, outside of mandatory deadlines and the contaminant regulatory process which you already mentioned, can you give me examples of the areas you think would not need the “top-to-bottom overhaul”?

The Honorable Richard Hudson

1. Your testimony called for allowing drinking water state revolving loan funds to be used for water system security enhancements. How often do water systems engage in vulnerability assessments or site security plans? Is that true for the other water utility members of the panel?
2. What types of items are you looking to have covered that are not otherwise covered by the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund?

The Honorable Paul D. Tonko

1. Systems have a hard time attracting talented and qualified employees. Many young people do not know these career opportunities exist. Meanwhile existing employees are getting closer to retirement. There is a lot of institutional knowledge at stake. Do you have any recommendations on what can be done to develop the water utility workforce?