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FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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September 24, 2026

Mr. Eric Hill
General Manager
Russellville Water & Sewer Board
721 Jackson Avenue. S
Russellville, AL 35653

Dear Mr. Hill:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Environment on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, to testify at the hearing entitled "From Source to Tap: A Hearing to Examine Challenges and Opportunities for Safe, Reliable, and Affordable Drinking Water."

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, October 23, 2026. Your responses should be mailed to Seth Ricketts Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed to Seth.Ricketts@mail.house.gov.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Palmer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary Palmer
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

cc: Paul Tonko, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Environment

Attachment

Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Laurel Lee (R-FL)

1. In Hillsborough County, Florida, we have both urban and more rural service areas, and many smaller systems across Florida face workforce shortages and limited rate bases. As new federal requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act—particularly related to PFAS treatment and lead service line replacement—come online, how are small and rural systems realistically planning to meet these standards without dramatically increasing rates on working families?

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ)

1. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) provides critical support to help states and water systems deliver safe, reliable drinking water to communities.
 - a. As we consider reauthorization of the SRF, what recommendations do you have for increasing access to funding and assisting communities as they address drinking water challenges?
 - b. What specific changes would be beneficial to support disadvantaged communities?
2. The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) is a low-cost financial assistance program that helps communities pay for water infrastructure projects. As Congress considers ways to ensure communities can meet the water infrastructure needs, what changes should we consider to the WIFIA program?
3. In the hearing, you mentioned a “whack-a-mole” approach to addressing drinking water contaminants. How would a more wholistic approach to addressing drinking water contaminants help water systems more efficiently achieve public health goals?
4. How can a permanent, federal water affordability program help water systems, especially small and under-resourced, provide safe, reliable drinking water to communities they serve?