



NEW YORK RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

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Dear NYRWA Members:

As you may have heard, NY State Senator James Tedisco is sponsoring a Bill S3292/A3907 to create the Safe Water Infrastructure Action Program (SWAP).

Although New York has made available capital funding for water infrastructure in the FY 2017 budget that addresses capital projects, replacement and upgrading critical infrastructure, we all know this does not address the underlying issue of increasing maintenance requirements and operating expenses.

As you will learn more and read, there have been calls for a more permanent source of funding for our infrastructure, one that addresses and supports O & M activities that being SWAP. The Safe Water Infrastructure Action Program (SWAP) is designed to provide municipalities with water, sewer and storm water infrastructure, an annual supplemental funding stream to support operation and maintenance activities. Just like the successful Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS), municipalities would know what their annual SWAP allotment would be. This would afford your municipality the opportunity to perform maintenance and/or replacement, which can be performed by your staff. These would be smaller projects such as equipment replacements, manhole rehabilitation or water line replacement.

We ask you to take action today and join us in a letter campaign to your NYS Legislators in support of S3292/A3907. We have included a sample letter for your convenience and instructions to help navigate to your State Senator and State Assembly Representative website for contact information for this campaign. Please take time out of your busy schedules to help get this Bill passed during the 2018 session. **It takes all of our voices working together to get the job done.**

If you need any assistance or wish to discuss this further, please reach out to the New York Rural Water Association. Other organizations that are also supporting this include NY Section AWWA, NYWEA and the Association of Towns. Let's all do our part.

Thank you.

J. Andrew Herman, CEO



TO PROVIDE ITS MEMBERS WITH THE EXPERTISE AND TRAINING TO MEET PRESENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES AND TO REPRESENT ITS MEMBERS' INTERESTS AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS.

Letter Campaign

How to determine who your representatives are in the Assembly and Senate for their contact information follow these steps:

For Assembly go to www.nyasembly.gov/mem

Once you are at this page, below in the shaded gray area click on "Who is My Assembly Member?"

Search by address (type your address) hit "Locate" this will provide your Representative

Visit your Assembly Members Page – their website will provide you with District Office contact information including address, phone and fax, along with the Albany Office information as well.

For Senators go to www.nysenate.gov

Once you are at this page, in the box below click on "Find Your Senator"

See where it says "Create a profile using the form below to find the NY State Senator who represents you. If you would like to find your senator **without** creating a **profile**, please use this form (click on this form) then type your address and click "Find My Senator" You can then click on your Senators name and it will take you to their website to obtain their contact information including address, phone and fax.

The Bill Summary

S3292/A3907

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to establishing the safe water infrastructure action program for the purpose of making payments toward the replacement and rehabilitation of existing local municipally-owned and funded drinking water, storm water and sanitary sewer systems THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS: 1 Section 1. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a 2 new section 3-0321 to read as follows: 3 3-0321. SAFE WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE ACTION PROGRAM. 4 1. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS CHAPTER OR ANY OTHER 5 LAW AND SUBJECT TO AN APPROPRIATION MADE THEREFOR AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH 6 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION AND WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS 7 PROMULGATED BY THE COMMISSIONER IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, ON AND AFTER 8 THE FIRST DAY OF APRIL, TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN, A CONSOLIDATED LOCAL 9 INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING 10 PAYMENTS TOWARD THE REPLACEMENT AND REHABILITATION OF EXISTING LOCAL 11 MUNICIPALLY-OWNED AND FUNDED DRINKING WATER, STORM WATER AND SANITARY 12 SEWER SYSTEMS. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, SUCH PROGRAM SHALL APPLY TO 13 ANY COUNTY, CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE DRINKING WATER SYSTEM, STORM WATER 14 SYSTEM OR SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM WITHIN THE STATE THAT IS NOT UNDER THE 15 MAINTENANCE AND/OR OPERATIONAL JURISDICTION OF THE STATE NOR ANY PRIVATE 16 ENTITY. THE COMMISSIONER, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL FACILI 17 TIES CORPORATION, SHALL PROMULGATE ALL NECESSARY RULES AND REGULATIONS

SAMPLE LETTER (Please use your official letterhead)

Dear Representative:

The **(Town of, Village of, or City of _____)** is writing today in support of S3292/A3907 to create the Safe Water Infrastructure Action Program known as SWAP.

We wish to thank you for the support of capital funding for water infrastructure in the FY2017 budget that is essential to address capital projects, replacement and upgrading critical infrastructure. While these programs are necessary and essential tools for replacing and building new infrastructure, they do not address the underlying issue of increasing maintenance requirements and operating expenses.

Insufficient Operation and Maintenance (O&M) funding is a major contributor to our infrastructure issues. Years of unavoidable deferring maintenance of critical infrastructure due to insufficient savings and inability to apply for government funding are just some of the reasons that have led to insufficient O&M funding.

There have been calls for a more permanent source of funding for our infrastructure, one that addresses and supports O&M activities. The SWAP is designed to provide municipalities with water, sewer and storm water infrastructure, an annual supplemental funding stream to support operation and maintenance activities. Just like the successful Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS), municipalities would know what their annual SWAP allotment would be. This would afford us the opportunity to perform maintenance and/or replacement, which can be performed by our municipal staff. These would be smaller projects such as equipment replacements, manhole rehabilitation or water line replacement. The long-term sustainability of the systems would improve through the increased operation and maintenance funding and rates could stabilize and remain affordable.

Some of the infrastructure in New York dates back over 100 years and the interconnectivity of water means that if the infrastructure fails in one location, many cities, towns and villages will also be affected. For these reasons, the **(Village of, City of, or Town of)** supports S3292/A3907 to develop a dedicated funding program to distribute funds annually to municipalities to ensure the integrity and reliance of municipal water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure and we respectfully urge your support of this legislation.