

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

AL-07-000-2987

February 14, 2007

The Honorable Stephen L. Johnson  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Johnson,

We are writing to encourage you to utilize the appropriations provided to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the continuing resolution appropriations bill to continue fiscal year (FY) 2007 funding for the National Rural Water Association's training and technical assistance programs currently operating in Maine.

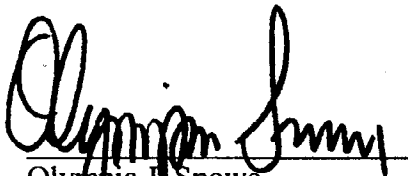
The Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA) has supported water systems in Maine since 1979. Today, many Maine communities depend on this assistance in order to protect their drinking water and comply with federal mandates.

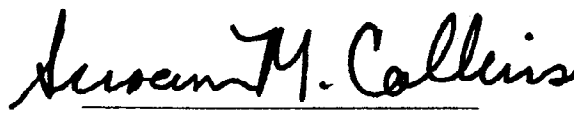
Rural communities often lack the technical and financial resources to comply with increasingly complicated and expensive rules. Communities rely on the MRWA to interpret environmental regulations and develop ways to comply with these regulations in order to protect precious water supplies. Utilities in Maine also rely on the MRWA to find financing to meet new regulations in such areas as Arsenic, Disinfection Byproducts, and the new Groundwater Disinfection Rule.

MRWA is a leader in bringing community representatives together to find ways to protect groundwater resources. As you consider funding EPA allocations using the appropriations in the continuing resolution, we urge you to maintain funding for rural water initiatives at their present level.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Olympia J. Snowe  
United States Senator

  
Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR - 9 2007

OFFICE OF  
WATER

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Snowe:

Thank you for your letter of February 14, 2007, to Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), expressing your support for provision of funding to the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) from discretionary money that may be available to the Agency in the final Fiscal Year 2007 budget. I have been asked to respond to your letter on behalf of the Administrator. EPA agrees with you that it is critical to provide training and technical assistance to small drinking water systems to ensure that they are able to comply with standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

As you know, the NRWA receives financial assistance through Congressionally-directed funding in EPA's appropriations bills. EPA is reviewing the final appropriations language and will evaluate funding options in light of mandatory fixed costs and other priorities.

Irrespective of our final decision on funding for NRWA, I want to assure you that EPA will continue to support small systems through our other activities. The Agency supports training and develops targeted tools to help support small system implementation of regulatory requirements. States can also use funding from their Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) grants to support small systems. In addition to the \$14 million expended in FY 2006 for technical assistance to small systems, states also expended an additional \$38 million for other set-aside activities that primarily benefit small systems.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may call Steven Kinberg, in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 564-5037.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. H. Grumbles".

Benjamin H. Grumbles  
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR - 2007

The Honorable Susan M. Collins  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

OFFICE OF  
WATER

Dear Senator Collins:

Thank you for your letter of February 14, 2007, to Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), expressing your support for provision of funding to the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) from discretionary money that may be available to the Agency in the final Fiscal Year 2007 budget. I have been asked to respond to your letter on behalf of the Administrator. EPA agrees with you that it is critical to provide training and technical assistance to small drinking water systems to ensure that they are able to comply with standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

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Benjamin H. Grumbles  
Assistant Administrator