

NEW YORK RURAL WATER RALLIES IN WASHINGTON, DC

Seven delegates from New York representing our small public water utilities met in Washington, DC, this April in an ongoing effort to secure the essential federal grant funds for our water and wastewater programs. Our delegation met with New York Representatives and their aides to stress the importance of continuing these programs that provide free training and technical assistance to our rural systems across the state.

Without this financial assistance from Washington, DC, the NYRWA would not be able to continue providing the necessary training to our water and wastewater professionals from the rural community systems throughout New York.

During our visits, we asked our Congress and Senate to sign on to a Dear Colleague letter that is sent to the Chairman of Appropriations, which is our own Congressman Jim Walsh from New York. At the writing of this article, the following Congressional Representatives from New York have signed on: Congressman Boehlert, Congressman Engel, Congressman McHugh, Congressman McNulty, Congressman Houghton, Congressman Sweeney, Congressman Owens, and Congressman Rangel. Congressman Hinchey has agreed to send his own letter of support onto Chairman Jim Walsh (NY). If your system resides within any of these Congressional Districts, please take the time to contact him/her and thank them for their continued support of these programs. If your representative has not signed on, please take the time to ask them why not. One additional note, Senator Charles Schumer signed on to the letter for the Senate. Thanks to all of the above mentioned Representatives for their continued support.

To all our members that send those terrific thank you letters to our Association after receiving assistance or training from the NYRWA, we thank you so much. Those letters are presented in a package to each representative to let them know what these federal funds are doing for you. Please keep those letters coming.

If you would be interested in joining us next April in Washington, DC, to be a part of our grassroots efforts, let us know, we would be happy to have you join us.

On behalf of the New York Rural Water Association, we thank the National Rural Water Association for putting this Rally together and providing us with the information to take to our leaders. Through our nationwide efforts, training and on-site technical assistance will continue to assist you with your daily operations of providing a safe and affordable drinking water to your customers, families, and friends.

Finally, I would like to thank Claude Sykes of Baldwinsville, Mayor Fred Eisenberg of Marcellus, John Hopkins of Sodus, and Bill Culligan of Thompson, for taking time out of their busy schedules to fly to Washington, DC, this past March. We met with key officials on the importance of these programs. With such dedication and support from these individuals, we believe the message was delivered to our leaders.

Pictured below from left to right are: John O'Connell, Jerry Barron, Claudia Barron, Pat Scalera, Florence Braunius, Congressman John McHugh, and Steve Freeman.