



## **Greenport's John Mokszycki Testifies before Congress on Water Issues on Behalf of All Small and Rural Communities**



Mokszycki's Testimony ([video link](#))



Rep. Delgado Introduces Mokszycki ([video link](#))

(Washington, DC) The U.S. House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Water and Environment, which has jurisdiction over the Clean Water Act, held its first hearing of the new Congress on March 7th. The congressional committee invited John Mokszycki, the Water Superintendent for the Town of Greenport, New York to testify on clean water issues. Mokszycki was representing all of the approximately 45,000 small and rural communities covered under the federal Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act through his affiliation with the National Rural Water Association and the New York Rural Water Association.

Greenport's U.S. Representative, Congressman Delgado, was appointed to the committee earlier this year and introduced Mokszycki at the hearing. Mokszycki said, *"I want to thank Congressman Delgado for getting on this very important committee for small communities and for his continued attention and help to all the municipalities in New York's 19th District with environmental protection and economic development."*

Mokszycki testified that small and rural communities have a much more challenging time complying with our federal Clean Water Act permits and operating complex wastewater treatment systems due to the lack of technical resources in small communities. *"While we have fewer resources, we are regulated in the exact same manner as a large community. While the cost of a small community's water infrastructure may only be a fraction of a large metropolitan community, the cost per household is often much higher because we have so few ratepayers to spread out the cost. Many small communities may only have one operator with multiple duties, not just wastewater treatment – and we don't have staff engineers, compliance officers and attorneys to help with compliance. But we still have to stay current with all the new rules, maintain our treatment and collection systems, and manage our very complex federal sewer permits,"* stated Mokszycki.

The Town of Greenport is recognized as a national leader in successfully overcoming municipal wastewater challenges. Starting in 2009, the town built a new \$9.5 million sewer plant that allowed the community to eliminate any episodes of heavy rains leading to discharges to the Claverack Creek. It has significantly reduced the frequency of drinking water line breaks through the replacement of older cast iron pipe with modern materials. Since 2014, the Town has implemented a successful action plan to prevent sanitary sewer overflows (i.e. home sewage back-ups). Greenport was recognized by Congress for its success in solving environmental challenges and keeping the rates affordable for their citizens.