



The Water Supply Cost Savings Act



- Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN)
- On December 16, 2016 President Obama signed WIIN... **MAKING IT A LAW!!!**
- WIIN contained WSC's **Water Supply Cost Savings Act**
- **A Bill** – To reduce federal, state and local costs of providing quality drinking water to millions of Americans residing in rural communities by facilitating greater use of well water systems as an alternative to traditional, centralized, drinking water systems.

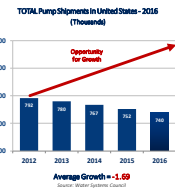
Drinking Water Infrastructure Challenge

- The United States is facing a drinking water infrastructure funding crisis. "Official" EPA estimates from the Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure Gap Analysis project a **\$384 billion shortfall** in drinking water funding over next 20 years. This funding challenge is particularly acute in rural America.
- Recent drinking water industry estimates (AWWA) place the funding shortfall in drinking water funding over the next two decades at **over \$1 trillion**.
- Annual funding gap for drinking water is nearly **\$20 billion** while the annual Federal investment is **less than \$2 billion**.

The Goal

Helping to meet the needs of the nation's water infrastructure by turning to cost effective small communities water well systems

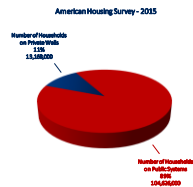
- **The passage of the SAVINGS ACT** marks the first time wells and well systems have been recognized by the federal government as a cost effective, sustainable way to deliver safe drinking water to rural communities.
- **Now we must work together** with the Implementation of the Savings Act, assisting EPA and USDA while also educating the water well industry and the public on how to leverage the Savings Act, including members of NRW, AWWA, and NGWA.



The Opportunity

Helping to meet the needs of the nation's water infrastructure by turning to cost effective small communities water well systems

- According to the EPA, there are **121,832** systems serving fewer than 500 people, the Savings Act target audience.
- Additionally there are 1.7 Million Americans living without water in their home. That equates to **672,000 households** who could benefit from federal financing for wells and well systems.



The Solution

The Water Well Solution helping to meet the needs of the nation's water infrastructure has already proven to be very cost effective

- The Water Well Trust has demonstrated in several states for several years that saving between 70-90% can be achieved through the Water Well Solution.
- These projects have been financed through combinations of state and local governments and the private sector.
- The Savings Act law will make federal funding available for these important projects as a cost effective Water Well Solution to meet the nation's water infrastructure needs.



The Action Plan

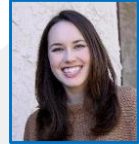
Drinking Water Technology Clearinghouse

DESCRIPTION
Meetings with EPA and USDA
Senate and House Hearings, Testimony
Data Compilation for Clearinghouse
Meetings with National Rural Water Association, American Water Works Association, and National Groundwater Association

The Action Plan



- Working with [Kristyn Abhold](#)
- Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- [Kristyn](#) oversees the new [Water Finance Clearinghouse](#) that was rolled out by EPA in July.



The Action Plan

Water System Assessment

A unit of local government or not-for-profit organization shall self-certify that the unit of local government or organization has considered, as an alternative drinking water supply, drinking water delivery systems sourced by publicly owned (1) individual wells;

DESCRIPTION
Education of Communities on Use of Individual and Community Wells
State Organizations: Educational Materials, Workshops on How to Leverage Savings Act Law
Outreach to United States Engineering Firms

The Action Plan

Report To Congress

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that describes:

- (1) The use of innovative and alternative drinking water delivery systems described in this section;
- (2) The range of cost savings for communities using innovative and alternative drinking water delivery systems described in this section; and
- (3) The use of drinking water technical assistance programs operated by the Administrator and the Secretary of Agriculture.

Testimony at the National Level



July 20, 2017

WWT client Mike Frazee testifies before the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife.



Included in our Savings Action Plan is work to get dedicated funding for Savings Act projects in rural communities.

Advocating at the National Level



- ▶ Jeff More and I met with Deputy Administrator [Lee Forsgren](#), EPA Office of Water
- ▶ Discussed upcoming infrastructure bill to include dedicated funding for rural communities that would fund Savings Act projects
- ▶ Forsgren did agree that wells and wells systems did provide safe, sustainable drinking water to rural areas where running a lot of pipe makes no sense
- ▶ Jeff More working with Sen Boozman's office and Sen Cardin's office on language for the infrastructure funding

Advocating at the National Level

- The Securing Required Funding for Water Infrastructure Now Act – SRF WIN
 - Build upon the success of the existing CWA and SDWA SRFs in delivering water infrastructure financing to communities of all sizes
 - 5 year bill providing \$200M annually
 - \$1B in budget authority gets you \$50B water infrastructure construction
 - Longstanding opposition/skepticism among rural water interests and key member's of Congress to WIFIA
 - States bundle water projects and present one loan application to EPA
 - State infrastructure financing authorities have the experience and expertise to efficiently distribute funds to thousands of water projects, including Savings Act Projects

The Next Steps...



- WSC will also develop new marketing materials about the use of wells and well systems for towns and rural areas that we will disseminate out to State Associations to share with their members
- Contractors and State Associations can help inform their local very small communities about the Savings Act with these marketing materials
- Additional materials will be created for dissemination to Engineers



The Next Steps...

- The passage of the Savings Act will have implications beyond having more wells used by small communities
- Having EPA and USDA attest to the fact that wells are a cost effective solution for safe drinking water will also help in our fights for exempt wells and against mandatory hook ups



The Results

SAVINGS ACTION PLAN URGENCY

- ▶ The passage of the Savings Act is a **Historic Landmark for the Water Well Industry!** In the 114th Congress there were 10,078 bills introduced and only 329 (3%) made it to the Presidents desk. **Now we are building on that momentum through "SAVINGS ACTION"!**
- ▶ The **"SAVINGS ACTION"** 3 year implementation plan will result in a **depth of information never seen before from the federal government - EPA and USDA - on the cost effectiveness of the use of well and well systems** for the 121,832 communities we are targeting, the 657,000 households living without water, to the engineers working on these projects, and to the contractors who are delivering the product.

The Results

SAVINGS ACTION PLAN URGENCY

- ▶ Through the **"SAVINGS ACTION"** targeted increase in federal rural water infrastructure funding will put in place the **financial resources to construct these new well systems.**
- ▶ The **"SAVINGS ACTION"** is our opportunity to reverse the negative sales trends we have been facing and to **grow the industry to new heights! Our work has just begun!**