

Federal Legislative Report - October 2024

Steering Committee Bills

17 Bills

US HR 8467

Title: Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024

Current Status: Introduced

Introduction Date: May 21, 2024

Last Action Date: Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.. May 21, 2024

Summary: H.R. 8467 would establish grant funding to support research into the agriculture impacts of PFAS and microplastics, with the purpose to better understand the role and influence land-applied biosolids and wastewater treatment processes play. Eligible activities include analyzing crop uptake of PFAS and techniques, such as wastewater treatment and composting, to filter out or biodegrade such substances from biosolids intended to be used for agriculture purposes. H.R. 8467 does not establish mandates for these activities.

Location: United States

US HR 8032

High Priority

👁 Monitor

Title: Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Establishment Act

Current Status: Introduced

Introduction Date: April 16, 2024

Last Action Date: Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials.. April 19, 2024

Summary: H.R. 8032 is the companion bill to S. 3830 that would create a permanent low income ratepayer assistance for water and wastewater services.

Location: United States

US HR 7944

👁 Monitor

Title: Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act

Current Status: Introduced

Introduction Date: April 11, 2024

Last Action Date: Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials.. April 12, 2024

Summary: H.R. 7944 is a companion bill to S. 1430 sponsored by Senator Cynthia Lummis (R-WY). H.R. 7944 would protect water and wastewater agencies and related contractors from liability under CERCLA unless the threat stemmed from gross negligence.

Location: United States

US HR 2964

High Priority

 Monitor

Title: WIPPES Act

Current Status: Introduced

Introduction Date: April 27, 2023

Last Action Date: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 371.. April 05, 2024

Summary: Directs the Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (as appropriate depending on the type of covered product involved) to issue "Do Not Flush" labeling requirements for nonflushable wipes, including baby wipes, household wipes, disinfecting wipes and personal care wipes. The requirements mirror California's labeling law and has the support from the wipes industry, national clean water sector, civil engineers, and environment advocates. Companion Senate bill: S. 1350.

Location: United States

US HR 7023

Title: Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act

Current Status: Considering

Introduction Date: January 17, 2024

Last Action Date: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.. March 22, 2024

Summary: H.R. 7023 was amended on the House floor to provide for ten year NPDES permit terms for public agencies. The amendment offered by Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) was adopted without debate unanimously.

Description: Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act This bill modifies requirements under the Clean Water Act, including requirements concerning water quality criteria, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, the permit program for discharging dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, and the meaning of waters of the United States. It also limits the issuance of permits under the act. First, the bill directs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop any new or revised water quality criteria for states through a rule. Next, the bill modifies the NPDES program, including by providing statutory authority for provisions that shield NPDES permit holders from liability under certain circumstances. It also provides statutory authority for

the EPA to issue general permits under the program. The EPA must also provide written notification two years before the expiration of a general permit. If notice is not provided by that deadline, then di...

Location: United States

US S 3830

Title: Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Establishment Act

Current Status: Introduced

Introduction Date: February 28, 2024

Last Action Date: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S1045-1046). February 28, 2024

Location: United States

US HR 7194

High Priority

 Monitor

Title: PFAS Accountability Act of 2024

Current Status: Introduced

Introduction Date: February 01, 2024

Last Action Date: Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials.. February 02, 2024

Summary: H.R. 7194 would create a cause of action under the Toxics Substances Control Act to allow a citizen or class of citizens to litigate against a manufacturer of PFAS that improperly discharged PFAS into the environment and created a public health impact.

Companion legislation in the Senate: S. 3725. Sponsor: Rep. Madeline Dean (D-NH)

Location: United States

US HR 6805

High Priority

 Monitor

Title: PFAS Action Act of 2023

Current Status: Introduced

Introduction Date: December 14, 2023

Last Action Date: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.. January 02, 2024

Summary: PFAS Action Act of 2023 is a reintroduction of the 2021 legislation. It would impose a statutory designation of PFAS as a hazardous substance under CERCLA. It would also impose other mandates including time specific drinking water standards for PFOA and PFOS and other members of the PFAS chemical family. It currently enjoys 21 sponsors, all Democratic. Sponsor: Rep. Debbie Dingell D-MI

Location: United States

US S 2162

High Priority

 **Monitor**

Title: STREAM Act

Current Status: Introduced

Introduction Date: June 22, 2023

Last Action Date: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power. Hearings held.. July 19, 2023

Summary: S. 2162 renews expiring provisions of the WIIN Act. It would increase funding authorizations for surface and groundwater storage projects, water recycling, desalination, and ecosystem restoration projects. Among the changes that would be authorized would be priorities for water supply projects that include enhanced public benefits (fisheries, wildlife and disadvantage communities drinking water reliability). It would also provide for enhanced water transfers to support temporary fallowing of agriculture lands to support wildlife habitats. (BILL PROVISIONS LIKELY TO INCORPORATED INTO LARGER WESTERN WATER LEGISLATION) No Sponsor at the writing

Location: United States

US S 1430

High Priority

Title: Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act

Current Status: Introduced

Introduction Date: May 03, 2023

Last Action Date: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.. May 03, 2023

Summary: S. 1430 would provide a limited CERCLA liability (section 107) exemption for PFAS family of chemicals for water and wastewater agencies. S. 1430 would not exempt an agency from liability in cases of gross negligence.

Description: Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act This bill exempts specified water management entities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) for releases of certain perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly referred to as PFAS. Specifically, the entities covered under the bill are public water systems, publicly or privately owned or operated treatment works, municipalities with a stormwater discharge permit, political subdivisions or special districts of a state that act as a wholesale water agency, and contractors performing the management or disposal activities for such entities. Under the bill, the exemption only applies if a specified entity transports, treats, disposes of, or arranges for the transport, treatment or disposal of PFAS consistent with applicable laws and during and following the conveyance or treatment of water under federal or state law, such as through the management or disposal of bi....

Location: United States

US S 1350

High Priority

 **Monitor**

Title: WIPPES Act

Current Status: Introduced

Introduction Date: April 27, 2023

Last Action Date: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.. April 27, 2023

Summary: Directs the Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (as appropriate depending on the type of covered product involved) to issue "Do Not Flush" labeling requirements for nonflushable wipes, including baby wipes, household wipes, disinfecting wipes and personal care wipes. The requirements mirror California's labeling law and has the support from the wipes industry, national clean water sector, civil engineers, and environment advocates. Companion House bill: H.R. 2964.

Location: United States

US HR 1729

Low Priority

 **Monitor**

Title: Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability Act of 2023

Current Status: Introduced

Introduction Date: March 22, 2023

Last Action Date: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development.. April 25, 2023

Summary: Sponsor: Rep. Bonnie Coleman D-NJ Co-Sponsor: Rep. Katie Porter D-CA

Description: Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability Act of 2023 This bill increases funding for water infrastructure, including funding for several programs related to controlling water pollution or protecting drinking water. Specifically, it establishes a Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability Trust Fund. The fund may be used for specified grant programs. The bill increases the corporate income tax rate to 24.5% to provide revenues for the fund. In addition, the bill revises requirements concerning the clean water state revolving fund (SRF) and the drinking water SRF, including by prohibiting states from providing financial assistance using amounts from the clean water SRF for projects that will provide substantial direct benefits to new communities other than projects for constructing an advanced decentralized wastewater system. It also creates or reauthorizes several grant programs related to water infrastructure, such as grants for removing lead from dr....

Location: United States

US HR 2162

Title: To provide for a limitation on availability of funds for U.S. Department of Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation for fiscal year 2024.

Current Status: Introduced

Introduction Date: March 29, 2023

Last Action Date: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.. March 29, 2023

Description: This bill limits FY2024 funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation grant program.

Location: United States

US HR 1837

Title: Investing in Our Communities Act

Current Status: Introduced

Introduction Date: March 28, 2023

Last Action Date: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.. March 28, 2023

Summary: Legislation restores tax-exempt advance refunding for municipal bonds to allow states and local governments to more efficiently invest in projects.

Description: Investing in Our Communities Act This bill reinstates the exclusion from gross income for interest on certain bonds issued to advance the refunding of a prior bond issue. The exclusion was repealed for bonds issued after 2017.

Location: United States

US S 938

Low Priority

 Monitor

Title: Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability Act of 2023

Current Status: Introduced

Introduction Date: March 22, 2023

Last Action Date: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.. March 22, 2023

Summary: S. 938 would establish a \$35 billion trust fund to support the construction of water and wastewater treatment systems. Funding would be derived from an increase in the corporate tax rate. The bill also imposes requirements for Department of Justice and USEPA to carryout activities to determine whether water and wastewater operators discriminate in the provision of services. USEPA must also investigate the impact of rates on service cut-offs. Additional provisions would address use of assistance to promote regionalization of systems and limitations on the use of federal assistance to support projects that address growth. The bill enjoys 500 NGO organizational support. It has five cosponsors. Sponsor: Sen. Bernie Sanders I-VT

Description: Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability Act of 2023 This bill increases funding for water infrastructure to control water pollution or protect drinking

water. Specifically, it establishes a Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity, and Reliability Trust Fund. The fund may be used for specified grant programs. The bill increases the corporate income tax rate to 24.5% to provide revenues for the fund. In addition, the bill revises requirements concerning the clean water state revolving fund (SRF) and the drinking water SRF, including by prohibiting states from providing financial assistance using amounts from the clean water SRF for projects that will provide substantial direct benefits to new communities other than projects for constructing an advanced decentralized wastewater system. It also creates or reauthorizes several grant programs related to water infrastructure, such as grants for removing lead from drinking water.

Location: United States

US HR 250

Medium Priority

 Monitor

Title: Clean Water SRF Parity Act

Current Status: Introduced

Introduction Date: January 10, 2023

Last Action Date: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.. February 01, 2023

Summary: Amends eligibility provisions for the Federal Water Pollution Control Act's Clean Water State Revolving Fund so that all wastewater customers have the ability to benefit from the program's low-interest loans. Supported by NAWCA Also introduce in 117th Congress - No Action

Description: Clean Water SRF Parity Act This bill expands the state revolving fund established under the Clean Water Act, including by allowing low-interest loans to be given to privately owned treatment works to address wastewater. Currently, loans are given to wastewater systems that are publicly owned.

Location: United States

US S 115

 Monitor

Title: Clean Water Allotment Modernization Act of 2023

Current Status: Introduced

Introduction Date: January 26, 2023

Last Action Date: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.. January 26, 2023

Summary: Provides for a set aside from Clean Water SRF appropriations to conduct Buy America oversight compliance, establishes that each state's allotment must be at the same level as FY 23 during FY 24-28 and additional allotments based on percent of state population to the nation. FY 29 and beyond allotments to be determined by new formula based upon Clean Water Needs Survey.

Description: Clean Water Allotment Modernization Act of 2023 This bill revises the formula the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses to determine how to distribute funds from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program. Under the program, the EPA allocates funding to states for water quality infrastructure projects, such as wastewater systems and stormwater management projects. In FY2024-FY2028, the EPA must provide an initial allotment to each state that is equal to the amount the state received in FY2023. The EPA must also provide an additional allotment to each state that is based on its share of the U.S. population. In FY2029 and each subsequent fiscal year, the EPA must use an updated allotment formula, which is based on the needs of states as identified in the most recently available clean watersheds needs survey. Beginning in FY2024, the formula must also provide allotments for Indian tribes and territories. In addition, the formula must provide an allotment for EPA's oversight

Location: United States