

# Federal Legislative Report - November 2023

Last Updated: October 25, 2023

## Bills by Issue

### Priority: High (3)

Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
<b>HR 1181</b>	<b>Referred To The Subcommittee On Water Resources And Environment 2023 02 27</b>	<b>In House</b>	<b>Monitor</b>	<b>High</b>
<p><b>Title</b> To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to permitting terms, and for other purposes.</p> <p><b>Description</b> This bill extends the maximum term for certain permits issued under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. Specifically, the bill extends the maximum term for NPDES permits issued to states or municipalities from 5 to 10 years. Under the program, the Environmental Protection Agency issues permits to discharge pollutants from point sources, such as pipes, into waters of the United States.</p> <p><b>Primary Sponsors</b> John Garamendi</p>		<p><b>Bill Summary:</b> Last edited by Eric Sapirstein at Mar 22, 2023, 4:55 PM H.R. 1181 would provide state permitting authorities to issue ten year NPDES permits to publicly owned wastewater treatment agencies. The authority would not extend to privately owned treatment facilities such as industrial dischargers.</p> <p><b>Introduction Date:</b> 2023-02-24</p>		
<b>HR 2964</b>	<b>Referred To The Subcommittee On Innovation Data And Commerce 2023 04 28</b>	<b>In House</b>	<b>Monitor</b>	<b>High</b>
<p><b>Title</b> WIPPES Act</p> <p><b>Primary Sponsors</b> Lisa McClain</p>		<p><b>Bill Summary:</b> Last edited by Sarah Sapirstein at May 2, 2023, 5:00 PM 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 regulations on “Do Not Flush” labeling requirements for nonflushable wipe, including baby wipes, household wipes, disinfecting wipes and personal care wipes. Requirements mirrors CA’s labeling law. Companion Senate bill (S. 1350).</p> <p><b>Introduction Date:</b> 2023-04-27</p>		

Bill Number  
**S 1350**

Last Action  
**Read Twice And Referred To The  
Committee On Commerce Science And  
Transportation 2023 04 27**

Status  
**In Senate**

Position  
**Monitor**

Priority  
**High**

**Title**  
WIPPES Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
Jeff Merkley

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Sarah Sapirstein at May 2, 2023, 5:00 PM  
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 regulations on "Do Not Flush" labeling requirements for nonflushable wipe, including baby wipes, household wipes, disinfecting wipes and personal care wipes. Requirements mirrors CA's labeling law. Companion house bill (H.R. 2964).

**Introduction Date:** 2023-04-27

### Priority: Medium (1)

Bill Number  
**HR 250**

Last Action  
**Referred To The Subcommittee On  
Water Resources And Environment  
2023 02 01**

Status  
**In House**

Position  
**Monitor**

Priority  
**Medium**

**Title**  
Clean Water SRF Parity Act

**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.

**Primary Sponsors**  
John Garamendi

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by David French at Jan 23, 2023, 3:54 PM  
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

**Introduction Date:** 2023-01-10

### Priority: None (6)

Bill Number  
**HR 1729**

Last Action  
**Referred To The Subcommittee On  
Commodity Markets Digital Assets And  
Rural Development 2023 04 25**

Status  
**In House**

Position  
**None**

Priority  
**None**

**Title**

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

**Introduction Date:** 2023-03-22

**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 drinking water.

**Primary Sponsors**

Bonnie Watson Coleman

Bill Number  
**HR 1837**

Last Action  
**Referred To The House Committee On  
Ways And Means 2023 03 28**

Status  
**In House**

Position  
**None**

Priority  
**None**

**Title**

Investing in Our Communities Act

**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.

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Sarah Sapirstein at Apr 5, 2023, 4:08 PM

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

**Introduction Date:** 2023-03-28

**Primary Sponsors**

David Kustoff

Bill Number

**S 115**

Last Action

**Read Twice And Referred To The  
Committee On Environment And Public  
Works 2023 01 26**

Status

**In Senate**

Position

**Monitor**

Priority

**None**

**Title**

Clean Water Allotment Modernization Act of 2023

**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 of SRF projects to ensure they use American iron and steel.

**Primary Sponsors**

Marco Rubio

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Eric Sapirstein at Apr 29, 2023, 9:02 PM

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.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-01-26

Bill Number

**S 938**

Last Action

**Read Twice And Referred To The  
Committee On Finance 2023 03 22**

Status

**In Senate**

Position

**Monitor**

Priority

**None**

**Title**

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

**Primary Sponsors**

Bernie Sanders

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Sarah Sapirstein at Apr 5, 2023, 4:45 PM

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. House companion bill, H.R. 1729 is cosponsored by Lee, DeSaulnier and Huffman along with 69 other House Democrats.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-03-22

Bill Number  
**S 1430**

Last Action  
**Read Twice And Referred To The  
Committee On Environment And Public  
Works 2023 05 03**

Status  
**In Senate**

Position  
**Monitor**

Priority  
**None**

**Title**  
Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
Cynthia Lummis

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Eric Sapirstein at May 30, 2023, 2:55 PM  
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. The legislation is not expected to be approved by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Instead, its policy direction could be incorporated into a committee bill addressing PFAS R&D.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-05-03

Bill Number  
**S 2162**

Last Action  
**Committee On Energy And Natural  
Resources Subcommittee On Water And  
Power Hearings Held 2023 07 19**

Status  
**In Senate**

Position  
**Monitor**

Priority  
**None**

**Title**  
STREAM Act

**Primary Sponsors**  
Dianne Feinstein

**Bill Summary:** Last edited by Eric Sapirstein at Jun 27, 2023, 4:16 PM  
S. 2162 is an introduction of legislation to renew expiring provisions of the WIIN Act. It is notable for its increased 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. The legislation would also provide for enhanced water transfers to support temporary fallowing of agriculture lands to support wildlife habitats.

**Introduction Date:** 2023-06-22

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