WQA’s Government Affairs Report and 2016 Annual Recap

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We Care

To further support membership, WQA Government Affairs worked on developing new resources to help communicate updates on legislation and regulations, as well as, resources to help engage with regulators. Handouts, brochures, and maps are now available electronically on WQA’s Government Affairs webpage. These cover contaminants in drinking water (arsenic, chromium, lead, nitrates, and radium), deteriorating infrastructure, flooding, water scarcity, and drinking water health violations. The monthly government affairs update report and bills lists are also archived online.

Our Strategy

Under WQA’s mission to be the recognized resource and advocate for the betterment of water quality, our goal is to have WQA’s input sought and considered by federal and state regulatory agencies relative to all critical water quality and product decisions. During 2016, Government Affairs worked on strengthening partnerships with other organizations to address contaminants in drinking water. Additionally, a crisis management plan was established in conjunction with responding to the Flint, Michigan water crisis to create a structure for addressing future crises. Within the plan, Government Affairs works on reaching out to government agencies involved in the issue and drive regulators and residents to the tools on WQA’s website to contact members, find certified products, and find certified professionals. Gephardt Government Affairs has also continued to represent WQA in Washington, DC to support legislation and regulations impacting the Association’s mission and build relationships with allied organizations.

This report covers the main issues Government Affairs worked on in 2016 and gives an overview of industry related bills that became law this year. Throughout 2016, Government Affairs monitored and reviewed bills directly or indirectly impacting the industry. Government Affairs is continuing its effort to track and advocate for and against legislation and regulations at the federal level and in various states.
We Advocate For You

WQA & Gephhardt Group had hundreds of contacts with congressional offices in 2016

Top Page Views Compared to 2015:

- Find Certified Products: ↑ 124%
- Find Water Treatment Providers: ↑ 25%
- Find Certified Professionals: ↑ 94%

Getting the Message Out

WQA was mentioned in over 2000 news stories in 2016 with a potential viewership of over one billion from all the news outlets.
WQA Government Affairs & Gephardt Group Update

The Water Quality Association (WQA) has implemented an advocacy strategy with Gephardt Government Affairs (GGA) to continue building credibility and stature for its members so it is seen as a recognized voice on drinking water issues. GGA made hundreds of contacts with members and staff to build WQA’s reputation as an important voice and resource on drinking water quality. Ahead of key votes, GGA and the WQA advocacy team targeted specific members to gain their support for provisions supporting the industry. The WQA team was especially active on the Flint crisis and its aftermath pushing hard for public notification of water contamination findings across the country.

Senate
Despite all of the “battleground” Senate races and predictions of possible Democratic control, Republicans were able to retain control of the Senate. The Senate ratio, which currently hosts 54 Republicans and 46 Democrats (including two “independents” that Caucus with the Democrats) will change by only one seat. The Republicans will remain in the majority by holding a 53-47. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell will remain in that post and with the retirement of Nevada’s Harry Reid, Senator Schumer of New York will assume the post of Democratic Leader.

Other than Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL) who was active on Great Lakes water related issues, no key ally targeted by WQA as a “champion” was defeated. Furthermore, Senator Kirk lost his reelection battle to Rep. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), who has met with WQA/GGA previously to discuss her legislation to assist schools in funding lead tests. She also introduced legislation to update notification requirements and provide grants to reduce lead in community drinking water supplies and delivery systems. WQA met with her legislative staff in December following her election to discuss issues pertaining to lead notification and other provisions in the water legislation passed by Congress in early December.

House
House Republicans will retain their majority in 2017. Democrats have only gained six seats from the 2014 election. Many analysts had projected Democrats to gaining 10 to 20 seats. The margin is 241-194 in favor of the Republicans. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) has been reelected as Speaker for the 115th Congress. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi of California will remain as Democratic Leader in the House.
In what is still being called a stunning upset, Donald Trump was elected President of the United States last night. He nearly 300 electoral votes and crashed through the Democrats “Blue Wall” by winning Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin. His transition if full steam ahead and he will be inaugurated as the 45th President on January 20, 2017.

Secretary Clinton won the popular vote primarily due to large majorities in California and New York. This makes her the 2nd Presidential candidate in the last five elections and the 5th in United States history to win the popular vote but lose the election. With the swearing-in of the 115th Congress completed look for the Republican Majorities and the new President to get to work on the following agenda:

- Repeal Obamacare
- Strengthen Military
- Infrastructure
- Immigration Enforcement/ Southern Border Wall
- Rescind Iran Nuclear Agreement
- Supreme Court Nomination(s)
- Review Existing Trade Agreement
- Simplification and Reduction of Taxes
- Demand More Burden Sharing From Allies
- Abrogate Paris Climate Agreement
- Infrastructure
- Supreme Court Nomination(s)

**Approach to Environmental Issues and the EPA:**

Mr. Trump has made public he views regulations on pollution raise costs for businesses. It is expected the Trump Administration will review all pending EPA rules, especially in regards to climate change and power generation. He has nominated Scott Pruitt, a harsh EPA critic and Attorney General of Oklahoma to serve as EPA Administrator. His goal will be to free up businesses from regulation, this would also involve modifying key provisions of the Clean Water act and Clean Air Act. While a president can’t literally change the provisions of these acts, the administration he or she puts in place can reinterpret them and Trump could effectively remove the enforcement mechanisms enabling these acts to have their nationwide impact.

Congressman Ryan Zinke (R-MN) has been tapped for Interior Secretary. Zinke has advocated expanded drilling for oil and gas as well as more mining of coal on Federal land.

**Approach to Taxes:**

President-elect Trump views the current tax code as detrimental to individuals and small business owners. Changes to the tax code are expected to be a priority for his administration. Trump’s proposed tax plan would consolidate the system from the seven current tax brackets to three, with a top marginal tax rate of 25%. His plan would also decrease capital gains taxes to a maximum rate of 20% and he has proposed a 15% top rate for taxes on businesses.

Look for the Trump Administration and the Republican Congress to take early action to repeal Obamacare using the “budget reconciliation” process to avoid a Democratic filibuster in order to achieve their goal with a simple majority.
2016 Review

Arizona

Salinity Project

In 2014, Arizona WQA applied for a grant with the State of Arizona and received $40,000.00 for an educational outreach program regarding salinity. Four education modules have been finalized for the education component. AWQA is now focusing on public outreach. An education website for the public has been created and the first training session was held in early May.

California

Bill Dodd wins California Senate seat

Bill Dodd has previously served on WQA’s Board of Directors, Board of Governors, and a term as President of the Association, demonstrating all the qualities necessary to be an effective leader. With water quality becoming an increasing concern to the public and the state and federal government, it is important to think creatively, while also looking for assured and reliable solutions. We are motivated by Dodd’s continued engagement of private innovators, entrepreneurs and small businesses. Dodd’s knowledge and understanding of water chemistry and treatment, as well as his experience in the water treatment industry provides expertise on these issues.

California Water Restrictions

California has returned conservation goals to local control to help with water bill management. This lifts the 2015 statewide conservation order requiring at least 20 percent savings. Local water districts are now setting their own conservation goals. To learn more, visit: https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/drought-hasnt-lifted-but-californias-water-restrictions-just-did/2016/05/28/bb555dec-22bd-11e6-8690-f14ca9de2972_story.html
2016 Review
California
Moulton Niguel Water District
The District Board of Directors meeting on June 16, 2016 included a vote on modifying the District’s rules and regulations regarding the use of self-regenerating water softeners. Current rules prohibit the use of self-regenerating water softeners. However, based on a review the staff and counsel have said they are not in a position to regulate residential water softeners. Additionally, the District staff do not believe the relief of this prohibition would have a noticeable impact on the salinity levels in the wastewater system. The vote was in favor of removing all restrictions on SRWS’s provided they are installed with a salt efficiency rating of no less than 4,000 grains of hardness removed per pound of salt used in regeneration and must be installed by a contractor having a valid C-55 or C-36 contractor's license. This was the result of more than two years spent educating the board by WQA member, Mike Mecca.

Non-Centralized Treatment Regulations (AB 434)
This law reinstates emergency regulations permanently unless amended or repealed by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). It allows the Board to award permits for point-of-use and point-of-entry treatment in lieu of centralized treatment by a public water system (specifically for severely disadvantaged communities). Although the permit is limited to 3 years, small systems will be able to reapply for another permit. WQA supported this legislation. To review the adopted resolution and emergency rules, visit: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/POEandPOUTreatment.shtml

Proposition 65 Updates
Required under Proposition 65, businesses must provide clear and reasonable warnings to consumers if the product can expose them to a chemical listed as known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity. California’s Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has compiled a list of chemicals that can cause cancer or reproductive toxicity. Businesses can use warning methods and content OEHHA, in Prop 65, has considered clear and reasonable. OEEHA has adopted the revisions to Article 6 relative to “Clear and Reasonable Warnings”. Below is a link to the OEEHA website where the announcement can be found. The site also includes interesting links detailing the history to this particular revision. http://oehha.ca.gov/proposition-65/crrn/notice-adoption-article-6-clear-and-reasonable-warnings

Also, styrene has been added to the list of chemicals known to cause cancer under proposition 65. For more information, visit: http://oehha.ca.gov/proposition-65/crrn/styrene-listed-effective-april-22-2016-known-state-california-cause-cancer

Softener Bans and Rebate Programs
Because of the drought and water reuse, some communities have looked at new bans or rebate programs on installation of water softeners. We are continuing to monitor for these issues. Contact WQA’s Government Relations Department for more information.
2016 Review

California

Human Right for Water
The SWRCB asked for support from WQA & PWQA for the Human Right to Water Resolution. The human right to water is already state law as per SB 685 (2012). This resolution seeks to reiterate the law and will allow the SWRCB to direct more money to clean water projects. Both WQA and PWQA have decided to support the resolution. Item 12 of the Resolution is pasted below:

12. Directs State Water Board staff, to the extent practical, to coordinate and work with the governmental agencies, non-profit organizations and impacted communities, and private businesses for the purposes of furthering the realization of human right to water activities within the administration of State Water Board programs and projects in ways best serving the needs of vulnerable communities.

Colorado

Specialty License Registration
You can now register to be a certified water conditioning contractor, water conditioning principal, and/or water conditioning installer in Colorado. To register with the state, visit the state’s website. To learn more about WQA’s CWS and CI program visit www.wqa.org/mep or e-mail education@wqa.org with questions.

Education requirements for Water Conditioning Principal & Water Conditioning Installer:
• Water Conditioning Principal will need to complete certification through WQA’s certified installer (CI) and certified water specialist (CWS) programs
• Water Conditioning Installer will need to complete certification through WQA’s certified installer (CI) program.

Connecticut

Septic System Discharge
Currently, the Connecticut Public Health Code does not allow backwash of water softeners into septic systems, but will allow on-site disposal of water treatment system wastewater via a separate/dedicated subsurface disposal system in accordance with the Department of Environmental Protection or General Permit.

In March, 2015, the DEP confirmed the definition of “domestic waste” excludes water softener discharge. This means softener discharge cannot be sent to the onsite waste system, but all other water treatment device discharge is allowed. Also, radionuclide treatment system discharge is allowed into an onsite waste system or a dry well. Because softeners can be used to treat radionuclides, they are being considered for discharge into onsite waste systems.

In January, 2016, WQA member, Frank Brigano, engaged Representative Candelora to request help in scheduling a following meeting with the DEP and DPH.

In October, 2016, WQA members attended a hearing on septic system regulations. In anticipation for the hearing, the committee sent letters to the DPH and Dick Gephardt reached out to the Senators in Connecticut.
2016 Review

Delaware

Water Treatment System Discharge

Delaware has agreed to a waiver for whole house systems to discharge into septic systems. The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) has outlined a procedure for professionals to apply for a one-time formal waiver of the requirements in DAC 7101-3.31.4 for the disposal of regeneration water (backwash) into on-site wastewater treatment and disposal systems. This formal waiver would be a blanket approval for use of NSF/ANSI 44 third-party certified demand initiated regeneration (DIR) water softeners. Eastern WQA and WQA have worked for over 10 years to overturn the restriction on discharge of water softeners to septic tanks or to the ground surface.

Florida

Florida WQA Convention

David Loveday & Don McGhee, along with other WQA staff went to the Florida WQA convention June 9-11. Don presented on WQA’s response to Flint and other water issues. David provided a regulatory and government affair update on issues around the country and presented WQA’s Crisis Management Plan.

Softener Discharge Memorandum

The Florida Bureau of Environmental Health Onsite Sewage Programs released a memorandum to all county health departments, on September 29th 2016, regarding water softener discharge into onsite systems. The Bureau is recommending water softener brine waste not be discharged into the OSTDS. WQA is working with the Florida WQA Government Affairs Committee and their lobbyist.

Florida WQA Legislative Day

David Loveday and Florida WQA members participated in the association’s 2016 legislative day in Tallahassee to raise awareness of the industry and the issues we face.
2016 Review

Illinois
Galesburg, IL
WQA Government Affairs had meetings with the IL Governor’s office and Mayor’s office about an ongoing lead issue in Galesburg, IL and feasible treatment. Their most recent test in Dec. 2015 showed lead levels at 22 ppb. For more information, visit: http://bustos.house.gov/press-and-media/press-releases/rep-bustos-releases-us-epa-letter-that-recommends-action-in-galesburg

Iowa
Iowa Governor Water Initiative
Governor Terry Branstad says by extending a sales tax increase enacted in 2008 to 2049, he projects the state will also raise nearly $4.7 billion to address soil and water conservation issues related to agriculture. To read more about the initiative and the Governor’s 2016 Condition of the State speech, visit: https://governor.iowa.gov/2016/01/gov-branstad-delivers-the-2016-condition-of-the-state-address-to-the-iowa-general-assembly

Maryland
Revisions to Septic Regulations
Maryland Governor, Larry Hogan, said his administration is going to work on revising regulations on septic systems. To learn more, visit: http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/politics/bs-md-hogan-maco-20160820-story.html

Michigan
President Obama’s Visit to Flint Michigan
Following President Barack Obama’s important visit to Flint, Michigan on May 4, the Water Quality Association applauds the President’s position regarding water filtration in Flint. As a result, WQA has responded by demonstrating how the drinking water treatment industry can help bring immediate solutions for the residents of Flint. Today, WQA President Don McGhee issued an Official Statement on President Obama’s Visit and sent an Official Letter to the White House offering to provide certified filters and related technologies, technical advice, as well as public education.

Changes to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR)
On April 15, 2016, the Flint Water Interagency Coordinating Committee (FWICC) presented their proposal to reform the LCR for the state of Michigan. Since the EPA told Congress they will not have reforms to the LCR ready until early 2017, the FWICC aims to help Michigan go beyond the LCR and provided better protection. To look as highlights from the committee’s proposal, visit: http://micmi.com/changes-proposed-to-lead-and-copper-rules/
2016 Review
Michigan

Governor Snyder’s State of the State Speech
Governor Snyder of Michigan gave his State of the State speech on January, 19th. The majority of his speech focused on addressing the water crisis in Flint and asked congress to approve a $28-million-dollar relief bill for Flint. The money, mostly from the state’s general fund, includes, but is not limited to, $17.2 million for bottled water, water filters and replacement cartridges, and others. To watch the recording of Governor Snyder’s speech, visit: http://www.c-span.org/video/?403297-1/michigan-governor-rick-snyder-state-state-address

Lead in Flint, Michigan Water Supply
In the fall of 2015, Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha released data on elevated blood lead levels in children living in Flint. State officials confirmed her data shows the increase in blood lead levels occurring when the city switched water supplies. Flint is now committed to reconnecting to the Detroit Water and Sewage Department (SWSD). President Obama signed an executive order on January 16 for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to coordinate all disaster relief efforts. The Governor of Michigan has also declared a state of emergency. WQA Government Affairs is coordinating with Gephardt Group in Washington DC and with the Michigan WQA. Government affairs has conducted outreach to the public, news outlets, the Michigan Governor, Flint Mayor, and various congressman working close on the issue. Below are a few resources Government Affairs has developed to continue addressing the Flint water crisis: https://www.wqa.org/Programs-Services/Resources/News-Releases/ID/54/Water-Quality-Association-Addresses-Drinking-Water-Crisis-in-Flint-Michigan

WQA Visits Flint
At-home water treatment continues to be a significant part of the immediate solution in Flint, Michigan while the city continues to address the lead contamination in their drinking water supply. WQA Government Affairs, along with PUR traveled to Flint in February to volunteer time answering questions from residents and providing educational materials. The overall sense was there are a lot of people with questions about their water and how it can be tested and treated.

In the media, multiple stories have focused on point-of-use and point-of-entry water filtration. Greg Cornell, general manager of Culligan of Flint in Mundy Township, was featured on ABC 12 debunking misinformation about TDS meters.

Legionella Outbreaks
In a report released Thursday, January 21, 2016 the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services said between June 2014 and November 2015, there were 86 cases of Legionnaires’ and one case of the milder Pontiac fever in Genesee County. Flint, Michigan is in Genesee County.
2016 Review

Minnesota

Governor Drinking Water Summit
Governor Dayton held the Governor’s Water Summit on Saturday, February 27th in Saint Paul, MN. Representatives from Minnesota WQA and Kathleen Fultz from WQA attended the event.

Plumbing Code Adoption
The 2015 Minnesota Plumbing Code effective date was January 25, 2016. It incorporates the UPC 2012 edition with state amendments. For more information, visit: http://www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/codes15.asp

New Jersey

Proposal for Drinking Water Standard
The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) advisory board is proposing an enforceable drinking water standard for PFOA. New Jersey Drinking Water Quality Institute (DWQI), state scientists are recommending a health-based maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 14ppt. This is significantly lower than guidance levels of 70 ppt and 40 ppt set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the New Jersey DEP, respectively.

Meeting with Governor’s Office in DC
Gephardt Group represented WQA at a meeting with Chris Christie’s office in D.C. The meeting was to cultivate a relationship with the state as proposed legislation on water quality makes its way through the state legislature. One outcome from the meeting was the recommendation to meet with the state board of education.

Preparation for 2017 New Jersey Legislative Session
The New Jersey Taskforce had its first conference call in October to prepare for the 2017 state legislative session. In 2016, New Jersey introduced over 12 pieces of water quality legislation. Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 161 established a joint legislation taskforce to study and make recommendations on the state’s drinking water infrastructure. The taskforce will be proactive in reaching out to state legislators to provide WQA, our members, and POU/POE products as a part of the solution.

New York

Governor Water Quality Rapid Response Team
New York Governor, Andrew Cuomo, is assembling a statewide water quality rapid response team tasked with identifying and solving any possible contamination of drinking water, ground water and surface water.

Ohio

Governor Kasich Proposed New State Water Standards
The new standards include tighter deadlines and penalties to make public water systems notify and educate the public in a timely manner. To learn more, here is the factsheet: http://www.dispatch.com/content/downloads/2016/03/EPA_Lead_Fact_Sheet_FINAL.pdf
2016 Review

Oregon

Lead Concerns in Portland Public Schools
Portland School District has gained attention of the media after reports of lead exceedances in schools. After further investigation, there was much confusion over water treatment the schools had originally installed and timeline in which the reports were finally released to the public. WQA reached out to Portland’s senior director of facilities and assets management David Hobbs and Cheryl Pitman, executive assistant to the superintendent on June 3rd. Gephardt Group has also been in contact with the Oregon delegation in DC lending WQA as a resource as the school district moves to remediate the problem.

Rhode Island

State Specialty License
The Governor has signed two specialty licensing bills for water treatment contractors to work residentially and commercially. WQA member, Larry Casey, has continued to work on supporting this legislation.

Wisconsin

State Product Registration
The Emergency Rule passed in April and exempted products certified by an ANSI accredited certification body to material safety standards from state registration. The Rule became permanent effective August 1st, 2015. Wisconsin WQA was vital to these efforts.

State Specialty License
WQA’s third party exam for the Journeyman Plumber Restricted Appliance license has been approved by WI Department of Safety and Professional Services. More information on fees, preparing for and scheduling an exam can be obtained through the Water Quality Association of Wisconsin (WQAW), cheryl@capgroupwi.com.

Waukesha Source Water Switch
Waukesha currently uses the St. Peter sandstone aquifer as its water supply (groundwater). The city has received approval from the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers to purchase water from Oak Creek who in turn draws water from Lake Michigan. Now, Waukesha needs to receive a permit from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Waukesha has said the plan is to start receiving water from Oak Creek and stop taking water from the aquifer in 2020. To continue to stay informed as new information is released, WQA and WQAW members have formed a Waukesha Soft Water Consortium. WQA has set up a portal to share factsheets, research studies, and talking points for the group.
2016 Review
United States

**EPA Lead & Copper Rule White Paper**
The EPA recently published its white paper on lead and copper rule revisions. Among the topics discussed, the agency references the use of point-of-use water treatment in situations where there is a change in corrosion control treatment or service line replacement. This is an important “sea change” for EPA to include POU and was supported by WQA meeting with the Office of Water in 2016. Below is the link to the full paper:

**EPA Drinking Water Action Plan**
The EPA’s Drinking Water Action Plan outlines several policy recommendations certain stakeholders might embrace and work towards next year, however, the action plan is not a mandate. WQA participated in EPA Office of Water stakeholder calls during 2016, sent in comments and met with Joel Beauvais, deputy assistant administrator for the Office of Water. WQA is pleased with references to WQA in the final EPA product. The action plan can be downloaded here: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-11/documents/508.final_usepa_drinking.water_action.plan_11.30.16.v0.pdf

**EPA Small Systems Monthly Webinars**
To watch recordings from the monthly webinars, visit: https://www.epa.gov/water-research/small-systems-monthly-webinar-series

**White House Taskforce**
In April 2016, the White House announced the formation of a President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology Policy (PCAST). PCAST developed recommendations for the President on suggested Federal actions in concert with cities and states to promote the application of the best available science and technology for drinking water safety. In the report, PCAST makes it clear, “Relatively little monitoring is done, at the final critical control point—the consumer’s tap”. WQA filed comments with the White House and is encouraged by the recommendations recognizing POU/POE and related matters. The report is here: https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/12/19/pcast-releases-full-report-st-ensure-safety-nations-drinking-water

**House Committee Hearing on Flint, MI**
The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has held multiple hearings on the Flint, Michigan water crisis. Links to view the hearings are below.
2/3: At the hearing was acting Deputy Assistant EPA Administrator Joel Beauvais, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Interim Director Keith Creagh, Marc Edwards (Virginia Tech), Flint Resident Leanne Walters  

3/15: At the hearing was former emergency manager Darnell Earley, former EPA Region 5 Director Susan Hedman, and former Flint Mayor Dayne Walling, Dr. Marc Edwards (Virginia Tech)  

3/16: At the hearing was researcher EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, and Governor Snyder  
2016 Review

United States

WQA Supports Provisions within the Federal WIIN Bill
WQA supported key sections on assistance for small and disadvantaged communities and reduction of lead in drinking water within the Water Infrastructure Improvement Action for the Nation (WIIN) Act. WIIN also included notification language when there is a lead exceedance and funds for testing drinking water in schools. The SAVINGS ACT was incorporated into this act to create a clearinghouse of public information on cost effectiveness of alternative drinking water delivery systems, including systems supported by wells. During WQA’s 2016 Fly-in day, members discussed the SAVINGS ACT with congressional staff.

WQA Supports the SAVINGS ACT
The Savings Act (Safe, Affordable, Viable, and Efficient Water Supply) aims to lessen the cost burden on federal, state and local levels to have high quality drinking water for the millions of people residing in rural/secluded areas by implementing well water systems as opposed to long pipe, centralized water systems. This act encourages well water systems as a cost-effective method for providing safe drinking water by assisting local governments and not-for-profit organizations with information and technical assistance to apply for federal drinking water grants/loans. The bill was reintroduced in the House and Richard Mest, past WQA President, sent a letter of support from WQA in June.

WQA Supports California Emergency Drought Relief Act
Senator Feinstein released a new drought bill different from the one last year (SB 1894). The bill is favorable to getting money to small water systems. Under eligible projects for grant money, Point-of-Use and Point-of-Entry (POU/POE) technology is listed to receive funding. In 2015, Feinstein reached out to WQA to learn more about POU/POE treatment and WQA sent a letter supporting drought legislation.

WQA Endorses Senate Bill 2535
The Water Quality Association is strongly endorsing select provisions of Senate Bill 2535: A bill to provide deadlines for corrosion control treatment steps for lead and copper in drinking water, and other purposes. The bill, introduced by Ohio Senators Sherrod Brown (D) and Rob Portman (R), sought to implement continuous monitoring and public notification when lead concentrations exceed the action level set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Senate Bill 2535 went a step further by providing guidance on remediation. It requires, no later than seven days after the date on which an exceedance notice is provided to the public, the State with primary enforcement responsibility will need to provide a short-term remedy, including bottled water or a water treatment system, to each affected household.

WQA believes point-of-use and point-of-entry water filtration systems provide a feasible solution to be implemented immediately after a notification and could possibly be more economical for communities where repairing deteriorating infrastructure is too burdensome. WQA member companies are encouraged to contact their Congressional representatives and voice their support for SB 2535 which we will work to have introduced in the new Congress in 2017.
2016 Review

Canada

Ontario Legislation on Door-to-Door Water Treatment Sales
Ontario bill 14 will prohibit door-to-door sales of water treatment devices, water heaters, furnaces, and air conditioners. It was introduced on September 15th. The Canadian Water Quality Association has been tracking the bill and actively communicating concerns over its provisions, while also proposing alternative solutions. To learn more, visit: http://watercanada.net/2016/mpp-set-to-block-door-to-door-water-treatment-sales/

Guidelines on PFOS

Products Containing Mercury Regulation
All products with mercury or any mercury compounds being imported to and manufactured in Canada fit within the scope of the new regulations. The regulations will become effective Nov. 5 2015 and cover labeling, reporting, record keeping, and potential testing requirements and permits for certain products.

Miscellaneous

WQA Washington, D.C. Fly-in
Representatives of WQA member companies participated in the Association's "Day On the Hill," on April 19-20th. It was an opportunity for WQA members to meet with key members of Congress and their staff. The WQA delegation included Sam Baron, Scott Batiste, Tom Blank, Larry Casey, Kathleen Fultz, Ken Gibson, Mike Heatwole, Amy Hill, Jeff Hill, Bill Jefferis, Bob Kappel, David Loveday, Gino Lucchese, Don McGhee, Richard Mest, Mike Mitchell, Shannon Murphy, Jeremy Pollack, Bill Siegmund, Ken Steitz, Bret Tanglely, Pauli Undesser, Steve Ver Strat, David Westman, Doug Workman and Ron Yoder.
2016 Review

Miscellaneous

Meeting with the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers

Kathleen Fultz and Bret Tangle met with Peter Johnson, Deputy Director of the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers, to learn more about the organization and management of the Great Lakes, as well as, start a dialogue for future partnerships.

Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) Conference

WQA Technical Affairs Director Eric Yeggy and WQA Regulatory and Government Affairs Coordinator Kathleen Fultz recently attended the Annual Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) conference in Milwaukee. ASDWA is a professional association, which serves state drinking water programs. The majority of the show’s attendees are the chiefs or directors of their respective state’s division of drinking water. WQA attends this event to continue building relationships with state administrators and to advocate for the industry by explaining how our members and certified products can help states address drinking water quality issues. The show provided presentations on various drinking water policy issues, including maximum contaminant level compliance and compliance to the lead and copper rule.

Washington, DC WQA Fall Visit

Gephardt Government Affairs recently worked with the WQA Government Affairs staff to prepare a meeting agenda for a staff visit to Washington, DC. During the trip, WQA Deputy Executive Director Pauli Undesser and WQA Government Affairs Director David Loveday met with Joel Beauvais, the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Office of Water and Eric Burneson, Director of Standards and Risk Management Division under the EPA. The discussion focused on the industry’s role in providing solutions to drinking water quality issues, such as Flint, and ways the Water Quality Research Foundation (WQRF) can work with the agency. David Loveday and representatives from Gephardt Group were also able to meet with Representative David Rouzer (R-NC), Representative Pete Olsen (R-TX), Representative John Shimkus (R-IL), Representative Jard Huffman (D-CA), and Representative John Garamendi (D-CA).

Western Governors Association

David Loveday and Kathleen Fultz attended the Western Governors Association winter meeting in December. Along with the open round tables at the meeting, David and Kathleen met with the water policy advisory for the Western Governors Association Ward Scott to discuss ways WQA, western governors, and WGA can continue using each other as resources. WQA staff also attended a private meeting on The Next Evolution in Accurate Forecasting of Critical Snow Melt and Stream Flows and the Impact on Managing Water in the West.
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Washington, DC WQA Winter Visit
Gephardt Government Affairs and the WQA Government Affairs staff prepared a staff DC visit for December. During the trip, Pauli Undesser, David Loveday, and Wes Bleed had meetings with the Environmental Working Group (EWG), US Green Building Council (USGBC), and the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM). David Loveday also spoke at the USEPA meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC).

EPA Enforcement Compliance History Online (ECHO) Resource
EPA has a public resource proving easy to use summaries of public water system activities reported through SIDWIS. The ECHO Safe Drinking Water Act dashboard search parameters can be manipulated to look at the entire nation, a specific state, or a specific system. It can also be used to look specifically at health violations. WQA pulled the data from ECHO to create an interactive map looking at health violations in specific states. To download the Drinking Water Health Violations map, visit: https://www.wqa.org/programs-services/government-relations/fact-sheets-other-resources
2016 Review

Miscellaneous

PFOA Detected in Drinking Water
There have been reports in multiple states across the United States of contaminated drinking water supplies with PFOA detected. Government Affairs has sent out a press release with quick facts about the contaminant and highlighted water treatment professionals and certified products as resources. WQA’s DC representatives, Gephardt Group, has also reached out to the delegations in the effected states. Below is an interactive map from the Environmental Working Group, showing areas that may be affected with PFOA:

http://www.ewg.org/enviroblog/2015/08/your‐drinking‐water‐contaminated‐toxic‐non‐stick‐chemicals

Chromium-6 Detected in Drinking Water
EPA Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR), round 3, collected occurrence data on chromium-6 (hexavalent chromium). Government Affairs released a press release on chromium-6 and Gephardt Group reached out to the effected states. Although the US EPA has not created a federal MCL for chromium 6, in 2011 the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) established a public health goal for chromium-6 of 0.02 ug/L. This is an unenforceable goal. In 2014 the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) developed the chromium-6 MCL, set at 10 ug/L. The Environmental Working Group has created an interactive map to show the data: http://www.ewg.org/interactive‐maps/2016‐chromium6‐lower‐48.php

National Electrical Code
The updated code has been finalized and will be effective January 2017.
https://www.nema.org/Technical/FieldReps/Documents/NEC‐Adoption‐Map‐PDF.pdf

Regulating Nanoscale Materials
The EPA has proposed using its authority under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to collect data through a one-time reporting program involving companies manufacturing or processing chemical substances as nanoscale materials. Companies will be asked to report on chemical identity, product volume, and methods of manufacture, processing, use, exposure, release information, and available health and safety data. The EPA has explained their intention is to gather information to determine if further action is necessary. The EPA factsheet on this rule can be found at: http://www.epa.gov/reviewing‐new‐chemicals‐under‐toxic‐substances‐control‐act‐tsca/control‐nanoscale‐materials‐under

Hurricane Matthew
On Thursday, October 6th, WQA sent a press release with an audio clip from Technical Affairs Director, Eric Yeggy, to address the risks to drinking water during Hurricane Matthew and posted it online.
- Press Release: https://www.wqa.org/programs‐services/resources/news‐releases/id/105/wqa‐responds‐to‐hurricane‐matthew
- WQA Factsheet on Flooding: https://www.wqa.org/programs‐services/government‐relations/fact‐sheets‐other‐resources
2016 Review

International Updates

US Environmental Goods Agreement
The US Environmental Goods Agreement is set to be completed by the end of the year. This is separate from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). To learn more, visit https://ustr.gov/trade-

United Kingdom Brexit Vote
United Kingdom citizens voted on Thursday, June 23 in favor of the UK to leave the European Union. For more information on next steps visit: http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-32810887

India National Green Tribunal Hears Case on RO Units
An NGO by the name of Friends, located in Delhi, is fighting a case in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and is asking for a ban on all RO units. Since there is no official RO association in India, Water Quality India Association is taking up the case. The Bench decided the RO system for purifying water ought not to be prohibited and decided to seek information with respect to the "reject" water being utilized either residentially/industrially/commercially/for other purposes and directed the Advocate appearing on behalf of the Ministry of Water Resources to apprise the Tribunal of tests conducted across sectors to establish the efficiency of RO plants/purifiers and utilization of “reject” water, being used by various Government agencies by placing a Report in this regard on record before the next date of hearing.

Taiwan Regulations on Lead Levels in Drinking Water Faucets
Taiwan adopted a new regulation concerning the allowable levels of lead in drinking water faucets, with additional requirements for premarket faucet registration and ongoing inspection.

WQA Regulatory Database Advisory Committee to Work on an International Resources Report
This group of WQA members originally came together to help and guide the creation of WQA’s Regulatory Info Search which focuses on North American regulations and is available electronically on WQA’s website for members. Now, the group is working on gathering resources for companies looking for information on countries outside of North America. This will be a separate resource from the Regulatory Info Search and will be available to members. The group is kicking off this effort in January 2017.
Legislation that Became Law in 2016

WQA actively engages in supporting/opposing/or remaining neutral on various bills posing opportunities or challenges for the industry. Below are bill highlights from 2016:

Arizona

**House Bill 2535 – Sent to Governor to sign 5/7/2016**
Requires public water systems to identify and provide notice to persons possibly affected by lead contamination of their drinking water where such contamination results from either or both of the following: (1) the lead content in the construction materials of the public water distribution system and/or (2) corrosively of the water supply sufficient to cause leaching of lead. Also, pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings and fixtures having a lead content in excess of a weighted average of one-quarter of one percent lead when used with respect to the wetted surfaces and solder and flux having a lead content in excess of two-tenths of one percent shall not be used in the installation or repair of public water systems or of any plumbing in residential or nonresidential facilities providing water for human consumption. The weighted average lead content of a pipe, pipe fitting or plumbing fitting or fixture shall be calculated as follows:
1. For each wetted component, the percentage of lead in the component shall be multiplied by the ratio of the wetted surface area of that component to the total wetted surface area of the entire product to arrive at the weighted percentage of lead of the component.
2. The weighted percentage of lead of each wetted component shall be added together, and the sum of these weighted percentages shall constitute the weighted average lead content of the product.
3. The lead content of materials that are provided as a range, the maximum content of that range shall be used.
To read more, visit: [http://openstates.org/az/bills/52nd-2nd-regular/HB2325/](http://openstates.org/az/bills/52nd-2nd-regular/HB2325/)

**Senate Bill 1191 – Sent to Governor to sign 5/6/2016**
Expands the use of the Arizona Water Protection Fund (AWPF) to include measures and projects to increase the supply of water and water conservation programs.

**Senate Bill 1530 – Signed into Law 5/10/2016**
Requires public water systems to identify and provide notice to persons affected by lead contamination from their drinking water where the lead contamination results from either construction material from the public distribution system or from corrosively sufficient to cause leaching of lead.
To read more, visit: [http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/52leg/2r/bills/sb1530s.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/52leg/2r/bills/sb1530s.pdf)
Legislation that Became Law in 2016

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**California**

**Assembly Bill 1588 – Sent to Governor to sign 8/17/2016**
Requires the State Water Resources Control Board establish a program to provide low-interest loans and grants to eligible applicants for specified purposes relating to drinking water and wastewater treatment. This bill creates the Water and Wastewater Loan and Grant Fund. $20,000,000 is transferred to the Water and Wastewater Loan and Grant Fund from the General Fund. It takes effect immediately as an urgency statute.
To read more, visit: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB1588](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB1588)

**Senate Bill 919 – Sent to Governor to sign 8/18/2016**
The Public Utilities Commission will have to, before July 1, 2017, in consultation with the Independent System Operator, to adopt and implement policies or tariffs to address the oversupply of renewable energy resources, including, but not limited to, a tariff for use by facilities that create or augment local water supplies, like desalination, brackish water desalting, water recycling, or water reuse facilities, based on certain economic factors. Furthermore, because a violation of an order or a direction of the commission is a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making the reimbursement.
To read more, visit: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB919](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB919)

**Colorado**

**House Bill 1005 – Sent to Governor to sign 4/1/2016**
Permits the collection of precipitation for residential roofs. The parameters are: there can only be a maximum of two rain barrels with a combined storage capacity of 110 gallons or less; the building should be a single family residence, or a multi-family residence with four or fewer units; the collected rainwater is used on the property from which it is collected; and the collected irrigation and gardening. Homeowners’ associations cannot prohibit rain barrels from precipitation collection.
Legislation that Became Law in 2016

WQA actively engages in supporting/opposing/or remaining neutral on various bills posing opportunities or challenges for the industry. Below are bill highlights from 2016:

**Illinois**

**House Joint Resolution 153 – Passed 5/31/2016**

The Illinois EPA, in coordination with the Department of Public Health, shall conduct a study of lead in Illinois drinking water describing the chemical and human health impacts of lead in Illinois piped water supplies. The study will monitor the actual lead levels, measured parts per billion, in a wide variety of supplies of Illinois piped water, monitoring the efforts shall concentrate on, but not be limited to, Illinois public water systems where lead test results have exceeded US EPA lead standards in at least one year since 2004. The results of the lead monitoring will be public and published online on a weekly basis. The final report will be completed by January 1, 2017 and published online. The study will begin immediately after the resolution is adopted.


**Indiana**

**Senate Bill 347 – Signed into Law 3/22/2016**

Repeals the law requiring all water utilities to annually report to the utility regulatory commission on the utilities’ operations and maintenance costs in providing water service to their customers. Requires the Indiana finance authority (authority), before November 1, 2017, to prepare and submit in an electronic format to the executive director of the legislative services agency a report on non-revenue water (the difference between the volume of water entering a water distribution system and the volume of water consumption billed to customers served by the water distribution system) and water loss in Indiana. Requires the authority to perform a quality assurance review of the water resources data compiled from the reports submitted annually by owners of significant water withdrawal facilities for all calendar years since 1985, and to present the results of its quality assurance review as those results become available to the water rights and use section of the division of water of the department of natural resources. Requires the authority to study, analyze, and report to the executive director of the legislative services agency by November 1, 2016, on the infrastructure needs of Indiana’s water utilities.

To read more, visit: [http://openstates.org/in/bills/2016/SB347/](http://openstates.org/in/bills/2016/SB347/)

**Michigan**

**House Bill 5220 – Signed into Law 2/2/2016**

Provides appropriations of funds for the Flint declaration of emergency.

Legislation that Became Law in 2016

WQA actively engages in supporting/opposing/or remaining neutral on various bills posing opportunities or challenges for the industry. Below are bill highlights from 2016:

**Michigan**

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 23 – Passed 1/28/2016**
This is a concurrent resolution to approve an extension of the state of emergency in the county of Genesee and the city of Flint through April 14, 2016.

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 24 – Passed 2/23/2016**
The concurrent resolution will create a joint select committee to examine the status and efficacy of governmental actions in response to the public health emergency in the city of Flint and Genesee County. The joint select committee shall report to the Legislature a summary of the reports it has received and recommendations on further appropriate actions the Legislature may take to address the Flint water public health emergency and to prevent similar emergencies in other communities in the state.

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 28 – Passed 4/13/2016**
This is a concurrent resolution to approve an extension of the state of emergency in the county of Genesee and the city of Flint through August 14, 2016.

**Minnesota**

**House Bill (HF) 2749 – Signed into Law 6/1/2016**
Minnesota Statute 2014, section 17,117, subdivision 11a is amended to include drinking water projects. Drinking water projects eligible under the agriculture best management practices load program must remediate the adverse environmental impacts or presence of contaminants in private well water and implement best management practices to achieve drinking water standards.
To read more, visit: [https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF2749&version=0&session=ls89&session_year=2016&session_number=0&type=ccr](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF2749&version=0&session=ls89&session_year=2016&session_number=0&type=ccr)
Legislation that Became Law in 2016

WQA actively engages in supporting/opposing/or remaining neutral on various bills posing opportunities or challenges for the industry. Below are bill highlights from 2016:

**Nebraska**

**Unicameral Bill (LB) 899 – Signed into Law 4/7/2016**
This bill amends the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act to change the lead content provisions. Lead free will be revised to mean: “(a) not containing more than two-tenths percent lead when used with respect to solder and flux and (b) not containing more than a weighted average of twenty-five hundredths percent lead, when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures.
To read more, visit: [http://openstates.org/ne/bills/104/LB899/](http://openstates.org/ne/bills/104/LB899/)

**New Hampshire**

**Senate Bill 380 – Signed into Law 4/4/2016**
This bill establishes a drinking water and groundwater trust fund. The New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission will consult with and advise the Department of Environmental Services relative to the proper administration and management of the drinking water and ground water trust fund.

**New Jersey**

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution 161 – Passed 6/30/2016**
The Assembly concurrent resolution will establish a joint legislative taskforce to study and make recommendations concerning issues related to drinking water infrastructure in New Jersey. The taskforce will need to identify both short-term and long-term solutions and recommendations to address the quality and condition of drinking water infrastructure in the State. The taskforce shall call upon individuals in the academic community and representatives of the environmental community with expertise, knowledge, or experience in issues facing the State’s drinking water supply and infrastructure. In addition, the taskforce will investigate steps other states are taking to address drinking water infrastructure issues and any funding mechanisms used to finance needed improvements, repairs, and updates.
To read more, visit: [http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2016/Bills/ACR/161_R1.HTM](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2016/Bills/ACR/161_R1.HTM)

**Senate Bill 2769 – Sent to Governor to sign 1/11/2016**
The Department of Environmental Protections will need to identify lands where protection is needed to assure adequate quality and quantity of drinking water supplies on times of drought.
To read more, visit: [http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2014/Bills/S3000/2769_I1.HTM](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2014/Bills/S3000/2769_I1.HTM)
Legislation that Became Law in 2016

WQA actively engages in supporting/opposing/or remaining neutral on various bills posing opportunities or challenges for the industry. Below are bill highlights from 2016:

**New Mexico**

**Senate Bill 137 – Sent to Governor to sign 2/18/2016**
Among other changes to the state budget, appropriations originally set for the Bernalillo water line is amended to cover the installation of an arsenic treatment system for municipal drinking water bell 2 in Bernalillo in Sandoval County.
To read more, visit: [http://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/16%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0172FCS.HTML](http://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/16%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0172FCS.HTML)

**Ohio**

**House Bill 512 – Sent to Governor to sign 5/25/2016**
The Director of Ohio EPA will be required to adopt rules to address lead and copper notification and testing for community and non-transient non-community public water systems within 120 days.

**Pennsylvania**

**House Resolution 916 – Passed 6/7/2016**
This is a resolution urging the EPA and Department of Defense to take all necessary action to ensure the residents in Horsham, Warminster and Warrington Townships in Montgomery and Bucks Counties have safe drinking water, to discover the extent of the contamination (PFOA), provide complete remediation, fully evaluate the health consequences and to provide ongoing biomonitoring to residents and military personnel who have been exposed to the water contamination from compounds previously used at the former Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base.
To read more, visit: [http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2015&sessInd=0&billBody=H&billTyp=R&billNbr=0916&pn=3468](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2015&sessInd=0&billBody=H&billTyp=R&billNbr=0916&pn=3468)

**Rhode Island**

**House Bill 7868 & Senate Bill 2770 – Signed into Law 5/23/2016**
Creates a commercial water filtration/treatment system contractor license under the Board of Examiners of Plumbers.
To read more, visit: [http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText16/HouseText16/H7868aa.pdf](http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText16/HouseText16/H7868aa.pdf)  [http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText16/SenateText16/S2770aa.pdf](http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText16/SenateText16/S2770aa.pdf)
Legislation that Became Law in 2016

WQA actively engages in supporting/opposing/or remaining neutral on various bills posing opportunities or challenges for the industry. Below are bill highlights from 2016:

Rhode Island

**House Bill 7869 & Senate Bill 2854 – Signed into Law 5/23/2016**
Creates a residential water filtration/treatment system contractor license under the Contractor’s Registration and Licensing Board.
To read more, visit: [http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText16/HouseText16/H7869.pdf](http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText16/HouseText16/H7869.pdf)
[http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText16/SenateText16/S2854.pdf](http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText16/SenateText16/S2854.pdf)

**House Bill 8127 & Senate Bill 3098 – Signed into Law 7/12/2016**
Directs the department of health to uses funds from federal capitalization grants to conduct baseline copper and lead testing the water supply systems of each local government as well as in public schools and licensed daycare facilities.
To read more, visit: [http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText16/HouseText16/H8127A.pdf](http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText16/HouseText16/H8127A.pdf)
[http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText16/SenateText16/S3098.pdf](http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText16/SenateText16/S3098.pdf)

Virginia

**House Bill 23 – Signed into Law 2/26/2016**
Effective until July 1, 2017 Energy Star or WaterSense products with a sales price of $2,500 or less per product purchased for noncommercial home or personal use is exempt from tax under section 58.1-605 and 58.1-606 during a three-day period beginning each year on the first Friday in August and ending at 11:59 p.m. on the following Sunday.
To read more, visit: [http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?161+ful+HB23ER](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?161+ful+HB23ER)

United States

**House Bill 2576 – Signed into Law 6/22/2016**
This amends the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to revise regulations on chemicals.
To read more, visit: [https://www.congress.gov/114/bills/hr2576/BILLS-114hr2576eah.pdf](https://www.congress.gov/114/bills/hr2576/BILLS-114hr2576eah.pdf)
Legislation that Became Law in 2016

WQA actively engages in supporting/opposing/or remaining neutral on various bills posing opportunities or challenges for the industry. Below are bill highlights from 2016:

United States

Senate Bill 612—Signed into Law 12/16/2016
The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) has been incorporated into a larger bill, Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. The provisions below are included in the WINN legislation and lots of the funds for these provisions will be spread over time (mostly 2017-2012).

- $60 million to assist for small and disadvantaged communities. Grants can be used for testing water quality including unregulated contaminants and can provide assistance on a per household basis. This empowers states and provides the flexibility to incorporate underserved communities with inadequate drinking water systems.
- $60 million to reducing lead in drinking water, equipping communities with programs and activities to reduce concentration of lead in drinking water, including the replacement of lead service lines.
- Section 2106 of WIIN focuses on notification language, requiring public water systems to notify customers if the utility is exceeding federal drinking water lead action levels. The EPA must notify the community within 24 hours if the state or municipality has not done so already.
- $20 million for lead testing in schools and childcare programs to create a voluntary program for testing lead with the results posted online.
- The SAVINGS ACT (Water Supplies Cost Savings) promotes transparency and accountability by creating a clearinghouse of public information on the cost effectiveness of alternative drinking water delivery systems, including systems supported by wells.

To read more, visit: [http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20161205/CPRT-114-HPRT-RU00-S612.pdf](http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20161205/CPRT-114-HPRT-RU00-S612.pdf)

Continuing Resolution (HR 2028)—Signed into Law 12/10/2016
Congress has passed the Continuing Resolution (CR) to allow the government to continue operating through April 29th. Included in the CR:

- $100 million for making capitalization grants to Flint, Michigan under the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. These funds will address lead or other contaminants in drinking water, including repair and replacement of lead service lines and public water system infrastructure;
- $20 million for Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation (WIFIA) Grants to finance water infrastructure efforts, including those to address lead and other contaminants in drinking water systems;
- $20 million for a Lead Exposure Registry to collect data on lead exposure and an Advisory Committee to review programs, services, and research related to lead poisoning prevention.

Proposed Legislation of Interest

The bills below have not yet passed. WQA is continuing to monitor and in some cases act on proposed legislation that may impact the industry. Below are bill highlights:

United States


On April 20th, the Senate passed the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act, a bipartisan measure to better align the nation’s oil, gas, and electricity systems by a 241 to 178 vote. The House passed their own version of the bill, which included an amendment comprised of 37 pieces of legislation opposed mostly by Democrats. Contained within the amendment were provisions that would resurrect the Keystone XL pipeline, prioritize fossil fuels over renewable energy, and California drought language.

To read more, visit: https://www.congress.gov/114/bills/s2012/BILLS-114s2012eah.pdf
https://www.congress.gov/114/bills/hr8/BILLS-114hr8rf5.pdf

What happens next with the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2016?

The Senate and the House will go to conference to mitigate their differences. Both bills contain WaterSense provisions beneficial for WQA members since it mentions “point-of-use water treatment devices,” and we expect it to remain in the final bill.
Check out the Member Resources on WQA.org!

We have online factsheets and archived Government Affairs monthly updates and bills lists!

Members can take advantage of WQA’s online regulatory database with regulation summaries and links!