



December 2, 2024

PLEASE BE ADVISED

To all CWCC members: we are saddened to announce the retirement of our coalition's lobbyist and key advisor, Sante Esposito, effective January 1st, 2025. Sante will long be remembered for his steadfast advocacy and keen eye for navigating the maze that is Capitol Hill. We tip our caps to Sante for a long, impactful career and wish him well as he begins this new chapter.

Given the news, the CWCC must begin discussing the hiring of a new advisor. Please keep your eyes open for a notice proposing a tentative date for our next Coalition Meeting. The meeting will be conducted virtually, so please make every effort to attend. Sante has suggested a candidate for the position; we wish to discuss this with the coalition at length and welcome all representatives to bring their ideas to the table.

Thank you.

Election Wrap-Up

As previously reported, the election results most beneficial for the CWCC's ongoing initiatives would have been a Democratic White House and two-house Democratic Congress. Seeing as the opposite scenario transpired, we can expect to face many challenges through the next four years. We anticipate three issues will remain top priority:

1. Annual appropriations for SRF's and WIIN grants/use of related earmarks.
2. Reauthorization of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which expires at the end of FY26—Should the law not be reauthorized, SRF's could return to funding levels similar to the Bush Administration at \$600M or less. **We must work to prevent this.**
3. Substantive legislation including the STREAM Act currently awaiting action in Congress.

Per the Key Advocate's analysis attached, early reports from the new Trump administration suggest anticipated support for SRF funding. However, how that falls into place as the budget process evolves remains to be seen.

As for partisan leadership, internal elections are nearing conclusion for the new majority party—Senator John Thune (R-SD) will serve as the new Majority Leader and Speaker Johnson has been nominated to remain Speaker, subject to a vote of the full House when Congress reconvenes. No leadership changes in either House have been floated for the Democrats at this time.

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Kyle England - Chairman

AGC of America ♦ AGC of Texas ♦ Alabama Utility Contractors Association ♦ Associated Pennsylvania Constructors ♦ Associated Utility Contractors of Maryland* ♦ CIC of Westchester County & Hudson Valley* ♦ General Contractors Association of New York ♦ Georgia Utility Contractors Association ♦ Indiana Constructors, Inc. ♦ Long Island Contractors Association ♦ Maryland Transportation Builders & Materials Association ♦ Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association ♦ Minnesota Utility Contractors Association* ♦ National Rural Water Association ♦ Ohio Contractors Association ♦ Public Works Contractors Association of Maryland ♦ Tennessee Road Builders Association ♦ Underground Contractors Association of Illinois* ♦ UCA of Anne Arundel County ♦ Utility Contractors Association of New England* ♦ Utility & Transportation Contractors Association of New Jersey* ♦ Contractors Association of West Virginia ♦ Wisconsin Underground Contractors Association

*Steering Committee Member



What's Next

On September 25th, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the government up and running through December 20th. Aside from funding for Secret Service protection for presidential candidates and FEMA recovery funds, all programs will continue at current FY24 funding levels. It is now expected the CR will be extended until March. Legislative action anticipated for the lame duck session will be subject to the new political landscape.

FY25 Appropriations General Status

Of the 12 FY25 appropriations bills, seven bills have been approved by the House Appropriations Full Committee and five have passed the House. Contrary to the bipartisan spending agreement per the debt limit extension bill, the House approach has been to provide a 1% increase in defense spending over the appropriated level and a 6% reduction in non-defense discretionary spending. The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved 11 bills with no action on the 12th and no floor action on any of the 11.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has passed a bill that would provide \$1.63 billion in overall spending for Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF). Including the reduction from earmarks, Clean Water SRF's are set to receive a total of \$1.27 billion from the Senate. The House has passed a bill that would provide \$1.2 billion to CWSRF, reduced to \$649 million after earmarks.

Safe Drinking Water SRF's are slated to receive \$1.12 billion in funding from the Senate bill, if passed, while the House-passed bill appropriates \$883.5 million. Assuming earmarks as a takedown from base funding, allocations for the Safe Drinking Water SRF's project to be \$883.6 million in the Senate bill and \$404 million in the House legislation. The Coalition continues to fully oppose the implementation of earmarks as takedowns. Should Senate and House earmark funding subtract from the overall SRF funding, the states would be left with modest allocations.

FY25 WIIN Grant Appropriations

Of the House and Senate Committee approved appropriations bills, the House has agreed to \$30 million to be allocated for Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Grants, while the Senate has approved \$20 million.

President's FY25 SRF Allocations

Per the President's FY25 budget, \$1.24 billion has been requested for the Clean Water SRF's, \$4 million for the WIIN Grant Program and no funding for the SRF related earmarks.

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CWCC Budget Requests

The Coalition continues to advocate for funding at a minimum of \$4.4 billion for Clean Water SRF's, \$4.3 billion for Safe Drinking Water SRF's and minimum \$20 million for WIIN grant funding.

Should earmarks be unavoidable, it is requested they are not used as takedowns, but a separate budget account in the lesser of the House and Senate earmark funding amounts and less than FY24 in total.

Key Advocates Report

Included with this report is Key Advocates' analysis from November 26, 2024, detailing status of other pending initiatives and more information on the items discussed.

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