

To: NeRWA Water System Members

Date: January 12, 2012

As you know, last October we lost funding for our EPA positions, namely the Training Specialist and Sourcewater Specialist. EPA's new budget was just signed into law in December. In the past, Congress "earmarked" the organizations to receive this funding. However, this year Congress directed EPA to prioritize the funding to organizations that are "supported by the majority of small community water systems."

Technical assistance that is most beneficial to small communities include on-site, non-regulatory, free, often provided around the clock, overseen by small communities, etc. For NeRWA to be competitive to receive funding, we must provide documentation that our communities support us.

We are once again asking for your help by writing a letter to EPA showing your support of rural water technical assistance.

Enclosed is a sample support letter:

- Support letter should be sent to NeRWA – we will forward it to EPA.
- The letter should be on your system letterhead.
- The letter is designed to show support as stipulated in the appropriations bill. The first sentence of the letter should be as stated on the sample. Any support should be below the first sentence. This can include how the training or the sourcewater program has helped in the past.
- It should be signed along with the title of the person or persons and dated.

Remember, funding is to go to organizations that "are supported by a majority of small community water systems." This is you.

When you complete your letter, return it to NeRWA in the envelope provided as soon as possible. If you would like to have it in a word document that you can just add your information to, email Salli or Carol at the office or one of the guys and we will send you one. You can also email your letter to us at [Salli@nerwa](mailto:Salli@nerwa) or [Carol@nerwa](mailto:Carol@nerwa).

Again, all of us at NeRWA thank you in advance for your continued support. Our members tell us that they don't know what they would do without us. We wouldn't be here without you.

*The Board of Directors and Staff of Nebraska Rural Water Association*



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**THIS SHOULD BE ON SYSTEM LETTERHEAD**

January \_\_\_\_\_

To: EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson

The City of \_\_\_\_\_, population \_\_\_\_\_, supports the training and sourcewater protection assistance provided by the Nebraska Rural Water Association through EPA funding to the National Rural Water Association.

(Please put examples of assistance from training and sourcewater here)

Sincerely,

Signature and title