

Brian Egan, Commissioner for the East Wenatchee Water District and President of the Washington State Sewer and Water Districts joined members of the Washington State Association of Sewer and Water Districts in Washington D. C., where they met with 10 of our state's 13 congressional delegation and representatives of the National Water and Sewer Industry Associations.



*Pictured above from left to right: [Jeff Clarke](#), General Manager of [Alderwood Water and Sewer District](#); [Jim Kuntz](#), Executive Director of [WASWD](#); [Senator Patty Murray](#); [Diane Pottinger](#), PE, District Manager of [North City Water District](#) and Board Member of [Washington State Public Works Board](#); [Tom Agnew](#), Board President of [Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District](#); [Brian Egan](#), President of [Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts \(WASWD\)](#) and Vice President / Commissioner of [East Wenatchee Water District](#)*

The purpose of the visit was to discuss the potential loss of two significant funding sources for water and sewer infrastructure improvements—Washington State's Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—and explore what funding alternatives might exist.

PWAA funding provides loans for six different types of infrastructure systems, including water, sewer, storm water, roads, bridges and solid waste; however a majority of the loans are applied to water and sewer infrastructure.

Washington state legislators are considering permanently eliminating the PWAA and diverting all the revenue that the program has generated into the Education Legacy Account to fund schools.

Some of the more common sources of EPA funding included the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan programs (which are also partially funded by the Public Works Trust Fund), the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF).

The grant funding is expected to remain frozen or reduced in 2018, as the White house considers reducing the EPA's overall budget by 24%.

Water and Sewer infrastructure is a critical foundation of our society and is often overlooked. Without access to low interest loans from Public Works Trust Fund and EPA, special purpose water and sewer districts must fund their capital improvement projects with bonds. Higher bond financing cost must then be passed onto the rate payers.



*With Representative Dan Newhouse (4th District)*

All water and sewer districts in Washington State are ready and able to help solve the problem. Fortunately our Washington State Congressional Delegation is in ideal locations on different committees that can be helpful to our cause. There have been many meetings with our legislators and it has been heard repeatedly that the Congressional delegation will be focused on resolving health care issues first, then tax reform and later in the year infrastructure.