

*Previously Introduced by
Representative David Rouzer (NC) and Representative Chellie Pingree (ME)
Senator Tammy Baldwin (WI) and Senator Susan Collins (ME)*

The Healthy Drinking Water Affordability Act (The Healthy H2O Act)

Legislation that would provide direct assistance to rural communities, households, and non-profits to test their drinking water and fund filtration technology to provide safer drinking water.

The Problem: Untreated health contaminants threaten water quality for millions of people. Across the United States, communities face threats to their drinking water from a number of contaminants, including lead, arsenic, nitrates, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), PFOA, PFOS, hexavalent chromium-6, and others. Public water systems monitor for these threats and treat water before it is distributed to points of consumption. However, nearly 23 million households rely exclusively on groundwater delivered through private wells for their drinking water. This water is not subject to the same regular oversight and testing for contamination, which can delay the identification of and response to health threats. Children are especially vulnerable to water contaminants such as lead and PFAS, and water filtration systems can often provide relief for families upon installation.

The Solution: The Healthy Drinking Water Affordability Act or “Healthy H2O Act” would drive positive public health benefits for millions of rural, underserved communities (populations of 10,000 or less), with persistent water challenges that lack near-term solutions to contamination by:

- Providing grants to conduct water quality testing and the purchase, installation, and maintenance of point-of-use or point-of-entry water treatment systems that remove or reduce health-based contaminants from drinking water.
- Having the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) directly provide grants to individuals, licensed child-care facilities, and non-profits who are equipped to help people go through the process of testing and then finding and installing a water treatment product to address their situation.
- Requiring water treatment systems funded through the program be third-party certified to address the health-based contaminant found in their drinking water.

Bill History: The bipartisan Healthy H2O Act ([H.R. 1721/S. 806](#)) was introduced in the 118th Congress and was cosponsored by 50 members of the House and Senate. Due to its extensive support, the bill was included in both Senate Farm Bill frameworks, while a modified text was included in the House version.



**Embedded in R & D
Frameworks for Farm Bill**



**35+ Supporting
Organizations**



**50 Bipartisan
Congressional Cosponsors**

Support the Healthy H2O Act!

For more information, contact GovAffairs@wqa.org

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The Healthy H2O Act has received support from 35+ organizations including the Water Quality Association, Rural Community Assistance Partnership, National Groundwater Association, International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, International Code Council, Water Systems Council, NSF International, and DigDeep.

Supporting Organizations

Water Quality Association
American Supply Association
Plumbing Manufacturers International
Rural Community Assistance Partnership
National Groundwater Association
High Performance Building Coalition
NSF International
Water Systems Council
Water Well Trust
The Groundwater Foundation
International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials
International Code Council
DigDeep
California Ground Water Association
Eastern Water Quality Association
Florida Groundwater Association
Florida Water Quality Association
Illinois Association of Groundwater Professionals
Iowa Water Quality Association
Kentucky Groundwater Association
Michigan Ground Water Association
Michigan Water Quality Association
Minnesota Water Quality Association
Minnesota Water Well Association
Montana Water Well Drillers Association
Nebraska On-Site Wastewater Association
Nebraska State Irrigation Association
Nebraska Water Leaders Academy
Nebraska Well Drillers Association
Ohio Water Quality Association
Ohio Water Well Association
Pacific Water Quality Association
Pennsylvania Groundwater Association
Texas Water Quality Association
Virginia Water Well Association
Water Council of Milwaukee
Water Quality Association of Wisconsin
Well Drillers Association of Wisconsin