

March 19, 2021

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Chair, Subcommittee on Agriculture  
U. S. Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Agriculture  
U. S. Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sanford Bishop  
Chair, Subcommittee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

On behalf of a diverse coalition representing rural technical assistance providers, associations, and private well and onsite decentralized wastewater professionals, we respectfully ask for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Decentralized Water Systems Grant program to be fully funded at \$20 million for Fiscal Year 2022.

This USDA program has a track record of success in supporting loans and grants of up to \$15,000 to low-and moderate-income households in rural areas for the use of private water well

not have the financial and technical resources available to larger municipalities, which makes expanded investment in this program is so critical.

Providing full funding to the Decentralized Water Systems Grant program will protect the health and safety of Americans on private wells or septic systems, rural communities, and the source water they rely on each day. We look forward to working with your committee throughout the appropriations process to support the unique needs of rural Americans.

Sincerely,

Groundwater Foundation  
National Association of Wastewater Technicians  
National Environmental Health Association  
National Environmental Services Center  
National Ground Water Association  
National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association  
Northern Brownfields Assistance Center  
Rural Community Assistance Partnership  
Water Systems Council  
Water Well Trust, Inc.  
West Virginia University Energy Institute