

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