To:    Chairman Bingaman
cc:    Jim Dunlap (New Mexico Rural Water Association)
From: John Montgomery and Mike Keegan
Date: 4/9/2011
Re:    The Energy and Water Integration Act of 2011

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA), the country’s largest community-based water organization, appreciates your assistance and support to rural and small communities reducing energy consumption, utilizing renewable energy sources (including energy generation from existing sanitation facilities), reducing water loss, and realizing the cost-savings for their citizens.

We are writing in support of your legislation, “The Energy and Water Integration Act,” and we encourage you to introduce the legislation in this Congress and support its passage into law.

Providing safe public drinking water and adequate public sanitation requires one of the greatest demands of energy in society. Most of the country’s over 50,000 water and wastewater systems are small, with limited economies of scale, and often lacking technical and financial resources. Initiating an on-site technical assistance network to reach-out to all drinking water and wastewater supplies to assist in the adoption of comprehensive energy conservation plans would result in dramatic energy and cost savings in every participating community.

Small communities want to implement the most advanced energy plans possible – and the small water and sanitation systems provision in the Energy and Water Integration Act would provide the shared technical resources to achieve this important objective.

Thank you for your leadership and assistance. Please contact us if we can be of any assistance.