



## *Connecticut's Rural and Small Communities Laud Rep. DeLauro's Assistance in Rural Funding Bill*

(Norwich, CT) The Atlantic States Rural Water Association (ASRWA), a nonprofit, community-based environmental organization of over 200 rural and small communities in Connecticut praises U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro for including \$568.9 million in water project funding in her Fiscal Year 2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill passed in the Congresswoman's committee yesterday. As Chair of the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee that is in charge of U.S. Department of Agriculture funding, Rep. DeLauro included essential funding for USDA's water and sanitation initiatives for small towns in Connecticut.

Steve Levy, Executive Director with ASRWA said, *"We are grateful the funding included in the Chairwoman's legislation. It ensures that the projects that will result in the most economic, environmental, and public health benefit, will receive funding in the coming year. We thank Congresswoman DeLauro for her support. She has been a strong supporter of water and wastewater infrastructure projects that are meritorious and essential to local public health and economic substantially. Connecticut's public health, environmental, and economy will certainly benefit with the additional funding. Small communities comprise more than 90 percent of the water supplies in the country. However, due to a lack of economies of scale, it is often more difficult for small towns to comply with federal rules, afford the latest technology, and have access to technical experts."*

Ed Bailey, Chairman of the Town of Middlefield's Water Pollution Control Authority said, *"We are grateful to Representative DeLauro and acknowledge her support and continued help for protecting the environment in the smallest, most needy rural communities. Drinking water and wastewater quality are two critical elements in a rural community's environment. A small town's viability is directly related to its water supply. Drinking water quality is one of the most pressing public health concerns in rural America, and essential for long-term economic stability. Thank you Congresswoman DeLauro for your leadership and assistance."* With funding support provided by the Congresswoman, the Town of Middlefield has adopted a detailed and thorough environmental land-use plan, called a source water protection plan that ensures protection of the community's drinking water resources. The initiative encourages, and assists, local water and waste water systems and elected officials to participate more aggressively in the development and implementation of local and regional source water protection plans.

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Board Members of Atlantic States Rural Water Association

Edward Bailey, Treasurer Middlefield WPCA  
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