

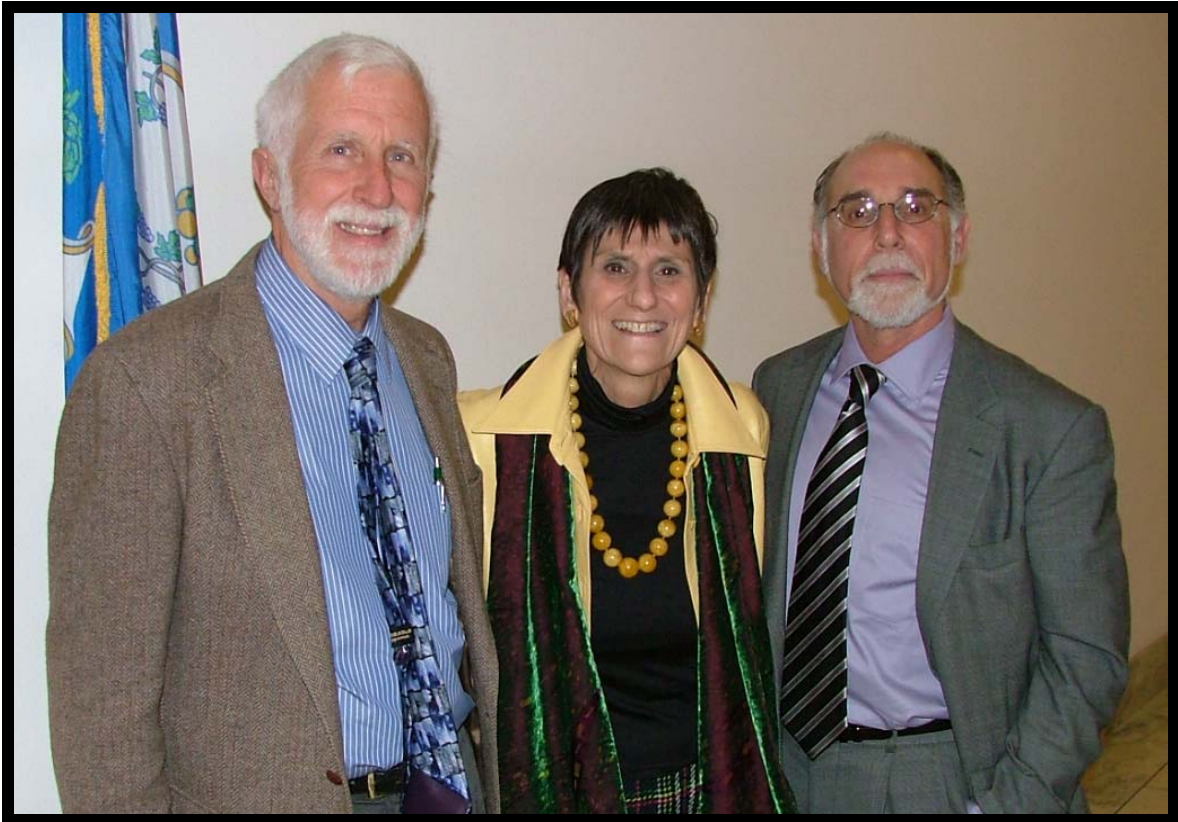
## ***Small Communities on Thank Rep. DeLauro for \$6.4 Billion in Water Funding – and Expanding Local Water Protection Initiatives***

(Washington, DC) The National Rural Water Association (NRWA), a nonprofit, community-based environmental organization of over 26,000 rural and small communities, the Atlantic States Rural Water Association (ASRWA) in Connecticut, and all small communities in Connecticut laud Congressman DeLauro for her support and assistance for community-based water quality protection plans and water infrastructure funding. The small and rural community organizations praised DeLauro for including \$7.5 billion in water environmental funding in the “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009” to the most-needy water projects making the Recovery bill most effective in Connecticut. Additionally, the Congresswoman supported increased funding in her Agriculture Appropriations bill to expand a grassroots source water protection initiative to Connecticut. This funding, in the final stages of Congressional approval before being sent to the White House for enactment, will allow for the expansion of this important environmental protection initiative to Connecticut.

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. We are very proud of the source water protection plan and it is critical to the future of Middlefield. 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."* 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.

Jon Brayshaw, First Selectman of the Town of Middlefield, said, *"The Town appreciates Congresswoman DeLauro's support of our source water protection plan, which has brought together the key players and committees in our Town to deal with major environmental decisions in our community. Just last week, a contingent of developers came in to discuss building condos at our local ski resort. The first thing we did was refer them to our source water plan. Middlefield is a rural community facing some tough issues like protecting lake Beseck and the Coginchaug River, failing septic systems, and diminishing water supplies. Through our source water protection plan, our citizens are doing a better job of ensuring the protection of our environment and natural resources."*

Steve Levy, Executive Director of ASRWA said, *"We sincerely thank Congresswoman DeLauro for her support. She has been a strong supporter of water and wastewater infrastructure projects that are meritorious and national in scope. Thanks to her Chairmanship of the House Committee that funds the U.S. Department of Agriculture, we are expecting to see a environmental protection initiative be implemented in Connecticut next year that will protect local communities drinking water supplies."*



**Atlantic States Rural Water Association and Rep. DeLauro after Capitol Hill briefing in Feb. 2009. Left to right: Henry Meyer (ASRWA Board of Directors), Rep. DeLauro and Steve Levy (ASRWA Executive Director)**