The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) supports H.R. 1340 & S. 1578, the “End Unnecessary Costs Caused by Report Mailing Act of 2011,” and urges its passage into law. If enacted, the legislation would enhance public access of health information regarding drinking water and reduce compliance costs for local communities and consumers – by allowing communities to utilize technological innovation (i.e. the internet) for compliance with federal rules and communicating with consumers. This new option would be especially important for small and low-income communities who can least afford additional compliance cost that result in increased utility bills.

Congressman Young said, “Every year federal law requires community water systems to spend thousands of dollars mailing a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) few people actually read... Water systems in my district have received numerous complaints since the requirement was implemented, including that mailing these reports is a waste of money and that it would be more effective to have a simple statement on their bill that their water is certified safe. While the costs of printing and mailing these reports vary depending on the number of customers in the system, in 2009, printing and mailing the CCR cost one water system in my district $30,565 and another $6,785. My legislation would not stop the production of the CCR, it would simply target the costly mailing requirement. Instead of having to mail the report to every customer, water systems that tested safe for the past year could choose to notify their customers of that fact on their monthly bill, while making the full CCR available on their website or by mail upon request. Water systems where the water tested unsafe would still have to mail the CCR to their customers.”

The bill amends the Safe Drinking Water Act to give public water systems (for which there were no violations of the maximum contaminant level for any regulated contaminant during the year) the option to: (1) mail the annual report on the level of contaminants in the drinking water purveyed by that system to each customer (required under current law); or (2) make such report available on the system's website and, upon request, by mail.

Gary Williams, Executive Director of the Florida Rural Water Association said, “We appreciate Florida’s Congressman Young for sponsoring this legislation – and for his assistance and support to rural and small communities committed to providing safe drinking water and complying with federal drinking water regulations. In discussions this week with all the state rural water associations, I was encouraged to hear that they all support Congressman Young’s bill and will take action to support and encourage cosponsors to the bill.”