

Small and Rural Towns Give Green Key Award to Rep. DeLauro for Advancing Clean & Safe Water

(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 in Connecticut, and representatives from the small community of Middlefield, Connecticut were in Washington, DC on June 12th.



(June 12, 2008) Congresswoman DeLauro's Staff Tasting Drinking Water From the Town of Middlefield, CT – (left to right) Brian Ronholm with Rep. DeLauro, Tiavalya Jefferson with Rep. DeLauro, Steve Levy with Atlantic States Rural Water Association holding Green Key, Kevin Brennan with Rep. DeLauro, and Ed Bailey, Chairman of the Town of Middlefield's Water Pollution Control Authority.

The delegation made the trip from Connecticut for two purposes: (1) to give Congresswoman DeLauro the "Green Key to Over 26,000 Communities Award" for her efforts in Congress to protect drinking water supplies and the environment in rural and small communities in Connecticut and all the other states, and (2) to give the Congresswoman a sample of the fine drinking water from the Town of Middlefield, Connecticut that is protected by a source water protection plan that was made possible by support from Congresswoman DeLauro.

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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. A copy of the plan is available from the Atlantic State Rural Water Association. Rural Water's Green Key is awarded to leaders who have been essential in protecting and improving the environment, public health, and quality of life in rural America in the areas of drinking water, wastewater, and source water protection.

Ed Bailey, Chairman of the Town of Middlefield's Water Pollution Control Authority, who transported Middlefield's water to Washington, 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."*

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."*

Photo available at: www.ruralwater.org/media2008/Rep%20DeLauro%20DC%20staff.JPG

The nationwide accomplishments from rural water environmental initiatives are available in the 2008 Report to Congress (www.ruralwater.org/report).

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