



January 4, 2011

NACWA Ensures Congress Passes Legislation Requiring Federal Payment of Local Stormwater Fees

In the final hours of the 111th Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation on December 22nd requiring federal agencies to pay local stormwater management fees ([S. 3481](#)). This followed Senate passage of the legislation by unanimous consent on December 21, 2010 which NACWA worked hard to secure. Upon signature by the President — expected soon — this legislation will be enacted into law. The legislation will benefit communities in over 15 states and the District of Columbia that are currently experiencing issues with federal payment of these fees. In addition, the legislation will provide certainty to communities that may enact stormwater fees in the future to meet growing stormwater management responsibilities.

As you likely recall, NACWA has been a leader in moving this issue forward. Our efforts began in April 2010 when the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a preliminary decision that federal agencies in the District of Columbia would not be required to pay a recently enacted stormwater fee. Following this decision, NACWA took a leadership role and immediately worked with Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) to have legislation introduced in both Houses of Congress. NACWA also organized a coalition of over 15 key municipal organizations, which helped press for passage of this critical legislation. In the final days of consideration, NACWA staff was busy building support to ensure passage during the very hectic and busy remaining days of the lame duck session.

NACWA is pleased to report this success to your state and regional organization and we look forward to additional successes on stormwater and other clean water issues in 2011. NACWA will continue to review the final language in this bill, including any potential impacts the bill's appropriations provisions may have. NACWA will be in touch with additional information as it occurs.

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Please feel free to contact Thea Graybill, Government Affairs Assistant with any questions or concerns at tgraybill@nacwa.org.

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