Water Affordability

BY
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ABOUT BPC

Founded by 4 former Senate Majority Leaders:

• Howard Baker (R-TN)
• Tom Daschle (D-SD)
• Bob Dole (R-KS)
• George Mitchell (D-ME)

Projects in several policy areas:

• Economy
• Energy
• Governance
• Health
• Immigration and Infrastructure
• National Security
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON INFRASTRUCTURE

- Eric Cantor, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Moelis & Co.
- Patrick Decker, President and CEO, Xylem
- William Downe, CEO, BMO Financial Group
- Mike Ducker, President and CEO, FedEx Freight
- Jack Ehnes, CEO, CalSTRS
- Jane Garvey, Chairman of North America, Meridiam Infrastructure
- Paul Horgan, Head of North America Commercial Insurance, Zurich North America
- Steven Kandarian, Chairman, President & CEO, Metlife, Inc.
- Thomas McLoughlin, Head of Fixed Income Americas, UBS
- P. Scott Ozanus, Deputy Chairman and Chief Operating Officer, KPMG LLP
- Doug Peterson, President and CEO, S&P Global
- Suzanne Shank, President and CEO, Siebert Cisneros Shank & Co.
- Susan Story, President and CEO, American Water
• Robust federal funding, including through the State Revolving Loan Funds and WIFIA

• Promote regionalization;

• Allow longer loan repayment terms;

• Amend program rules for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Weatherization Assistance Program to prioritize water efficiency when funds are used for energy efficient appliances and other purchases.
BPC WATER RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

• Promote asset inventories and life-cycle costs analyses

• Enhance USDA technical assistance and outreach to rural communities

• Allow and encourage weatherization providers to incorporate home water audits into home inspections and energy efficiency upgrades.

• Require HUD to solicit public comment on the costs and benefits of conducting water audits in tandem with multifamily housing inspections.
Establish a “rural partnerships” office at the federal level.

- House or contract with technical assistance teams who can work directly with communities to help them identify, prepare, and negotiate P3s, project financing packages, and the economic analyses necessary for grant and loan applications.
- Serve as a clearinghouse for tools, templates, and best practices for rural P3s.
- Encourage greater coordination at the regional or state level, e.g. by facilitating discussions among similarly situated communities to share strategies and bundle projects.
- Provide pre-development funding in order to support communities conducting the necessary evaluation to determine when a P3 approach would deliver best value
CREATE A “RURAL BUNDLING PILOT PROGRAM.”

- Grants to support project development and on-going project management, costs that are difficult for rural communities to bear;
- Technical assistance to assist with development of bundled projects and to help find appropriate financing;
- Exemption from federal programs’ cost thresholds so that bundling does not make projects ineligible for rural set-asides;
- Exemption from existing volume caps for private activity bonds issued to finance projects under the pilot program;
- Allow TIFIA and WIFIA loans to cover a greater share of costs for bundled projects; and
- Bundled projects could be added to the federal Permitting Dashboard to expedite required reviews.
Designate a rural liaison in infrastructure agencies (including U.S. DOT, EPA, Interior, HUD, and HHS) to help rural communities compete for funding or financing.

Ensure that any new federal financing tools are accessible to rural communities.
QUESTIONS?

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