

# WWEMA 50TH WASHINGTON FORUM SPEAKER BIOS

## [Caitlin Berretta, Director of US Government Affairs, Xylem, Inc.](#)



Caitlin Berretta serves as the Director of US Government Affairs at Xylem, Inc.. In this role, Caitlin is responsible for leading Xylem's lobbying efforts with the US Congress and federal agencies. In her previous role, she built Evoqua's first Government Affairs program with a large focus on water funding, PFAS chemicals and water reuse. Caitlin received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Engineering degrees in Environmental Engineering from the University of Florida and brings over 15 years of experience across a broad background of sectors, including water treatment, power, and clean energy. Caitlin also serves as Vice Chair for the WWEMA Regulatory and Legislative Committee.

## [Joe Brown, US Senate, Environment and Public Works Committee Staff \(Minority\)](#)



Joe Brown serves as a Professional Staff Member on the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW). His expertise plays a crucial role in advancing policies that impact our environment, infrastructure, and communities. Joe holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of South Carolina.

## [Tim Connor, Senior Chemical Engineer, U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management, Water Infrastructure Division](#)



Tim Connor is a Senior Chemical Engineer in the Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) in EPA's Office of Water. For the past ten years, Tim has served as lead for the successful domestic preference programs of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Prior to joining OWM, Tim led engineering and economic analysis development for EPA's water quality standards and industrial effluent guidelines programs. Before joining EPA, Tim was a defense contractor and a drilling engineer. Tim holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of New Mexico and a M.S. in Environmental Science Engineering from Clemson University.

## [Leslie Corcelli, U.S. EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water](#)



Leslie Corcelli is a Physical Scientist for the Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water at the U.S. EPA. She joined the EPA in 2015 after a 20+ year career in the private sector. Leslie works in the Water Infrastructure Technical Support Branch and plays a crucial role in implementing the American Iron and Steel (AIS) Requirement and Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) for federal infrastructure projects. Her dedication to safeguarding our water resources contributes significantly to public health and environmental well-being. Leslie earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies from the University of Central Florida and a Master of Science in Environmental Science and Policy from the John Hopkins University.

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## [Brian Frazer, Director, U.S. EPA, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds](#)



Brian Frazer is the Director for the EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW), where he leads multiple programs related to the protection and restoration of the nation's waters. Through partnership with states, tribes, federal, and NGO partners, Brian leads critical regulatory efforts associated with Clean Water Act sections 303d, 312, 401, 404, and the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act. Brian oversees several nonregulatory programs, including the National Estuary Program, National Aquatic Resource Surveys, Nonpoint Source Pollution, Urban Waters, Coral Reefs, and Trash Free Waters.

Prior to his OWOW position, Brian had over 15 years of senior leadership experience within the Federal government and 25 years of experience developing effective collaboration with State, Federal, and International governments. Brian served nine years in the U.S. Air Force. He attended Virginia Tech for a Master's degree in Natural Resources and Virginia State University for a Bachelor's degree in Microbiology.

## [Peter Grevatt, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, The Water Research Foundation](#)



Peter Grevatt is CEO of The Water Research Foundation (WRF). He directs the world's leading One Water research cooperative advancing the science of water to meet the evolving needs of its subscribers and the water sector. WRF is a nonprofit, educational organization that funds, manages, and publishes research on the technology, operation, and management of drinking water, wastewater, reuse, and stormwater systems—all in pursuit of ensuring water quality and improving water services to the public. With over 1,100 subscriber members, the Foundation has over \$67 million of contracted research activities currently underway.

Dr. Grevatt has dedicated over 30 years to the implementation of public health and environmental protection programs, including significant national leadership experience in the water sector. He previously served as Director of EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) where he was responsible for ensuring the safety of the nation's drinking water supply. Dr. Grevatt also served as Senior Advisor to EPA's Administrator for Children's Environmental Health and has held leadership roles in EPA's water quality and national hazardous waste cleanup programs. He is a graduate of New York University Medical Center with M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Basic Medical Sciences. He earned his bachelor's degree in Biology from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana.

## [Steve Hall, Executive Vice President, American Council of Engineering Companies \(ACEC\)](#)



Steve Hall joined American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) in 2001, and currently serves as the Executive Vice President at ACEC. Steve has led the advocacy program at ACEC for over twenty years and has been working on infrastructure policy his entire career.

Prior to joining ACEC, Steve worked on Capitol Hill for 14 years, including the role of Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for Congresswoman Sue Kelly (R-NY). Prior to joining the Kelly office in 1995, Steve served for two years as Senior Legislative Assistant on the staff of Congressman Bill Zeff (R-NH), where he handled the Congressman's work on the Transportation and Infrastructure and Government Operations Committees. He also handled transportation and infrastructure issues for Congressman Matthew Rinaldo through congressional consideration and passage of ISTEA in 1991. He began his Hill career in 1987 as a legislative assistant in the office of Congressman John Hiler (R-IN).

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## [Tammy Helminski, Attorney at Law, Partner, Barnes & Thornburg, LLC](#)



Tammy Helminski is a partner in the Michigan offices Barnes & Thornburg. She is a member of the Firm's Environmental Law Department, where she is Co-Chair of the Emerging Contaminants Practice Group and one of the lead attorneys for the national PFAS Regulatory Coalition. Her PFAS experience includes advising utilities of PFAS regulatory developments, counseling airports and other entities on AFFF contamination claims, addressing PFAS risks in property and corporate transactions; wastewater, stormwater and groundwater PFAS contamination claims for metal finishers and paper companies; PFAS at Superfund sites; and AFFF Multi-District Litigation defense. Ms. Helminski is a Past Chair of the State Bar of Michigan Environmental Law Section. Recognized by the Michigan Super Lawyers since 2009 and by Best Lawyers since 2015 for her work in environmental law. She earned her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School, her M.S. in environmental policy and her B.S. in environmental engineering from Michigan Technological University.

## [Brian Kaiser, SSA Agent, with Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\)](#)



Special Agent Brian Kaiser has been in federal law enforcement for over a decade and has investigated a range of violations from violent crimes, financial crimes, criminally motivated cyber-attacks, and national security cyber, including cyber-attacks against operational technology in critical infrastructure environments.

## [Jennifer McLain, PhD, Director, U.S. EPA, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water](#)



Jennifer McLain is the Director of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water and has 25 years of experience at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) both in the Office of Water and in the Office of Pesticide Programs. Jennifer joined EPA after earning a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Notre Dame and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Princeton University.

## [Wynne Miller, Deputy Director, U.S. EPA, Office Wastewater Management](#)



Wynne Miller is the Deputy Director for the EPA Office of Wastewater Management (OWM). Wynne has been with the EPA for over 23 years and has been a supervisor/manager for 15 of these 23 years. Wynne began her EPA career in the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water where she worked on numerous regulatory efforts (including the arsenic, radionuclides, and total coliform national drinking water regulations). She also helped develop the approach and led two rounds of the Six Year Review of National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. In 2014, Wynne moved to the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP). She worked in OPP for five years – serving as the Deputy Director and Director of OPP's Biological and Economic Analysis Division (BEAD) as well as OPP's Acting Deputy Director of Management. Before coming to EPA, Wynne worked as a research chemist in private industry and academia for seven years. Wynne has a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Masters in Environmental Science and Policy from Johns Hopkins University. Wynne also has Bachelor degrees in both

Geology and Environmental Science. Wynne grew up in North Carolina and is a member of the Lumbee Indian Tribe (a tribe recognized by the State of North Carolina).

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## [Deborah Nagle, Director, U.S. EPA, Office of Science and Technology](#)



Deborah Nagle has worked in various positions within Water Programs at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since 1989. Currently, Mrs. Nagle is director of the Office of Science and Technology (OST). In this position she leads a team that develops risk-based water quality criteria as well as standards for toxins, nutrients, and pathogens. She is also responsible for developing national technology-based performance standards to address water pollution from industry.

Prior to coming to OST, Mrs. Nagle served as director of the Water Permits Division within the Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) where she was responsible for implementing key components in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program under the Clean Water Act. She oversaw the development of national policy, regulations, and training material for such areas as municipal storm water, utility discharges associated with combined sewers and separate sanitary sewers, mining operations, and steam electric operations.

Mrs. Nagle worked for seven years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She is a 1982 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with a degree in engineering.

## [Tom Neltner, Executive Director, Unleaded Kids](#)



Tom Neltner is a chemical engineer and attorney who founded Unleaded Kids, which is a nonprofit, public interest organization to address major gaps in lead policy in the United States. He is using his quarter century of experience in collaborating with businesses, elected officials, advocacy groups, health professionals, government agencies, community-based organizations, and individuals to better protect children from harmful chemicals.

## [Tim Petty, US House of Representatives, Transportation & Infrastructure \(T&I\) Committee \(Majority\)](#)



Dr. Tim Petty, a Senior Professional Staff within the U.S. House of Representatives, plays a pivotal role in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (T&I). His achievements including contributing to legislation that strengthens America's maritime supply chain, addresses cost escalations of General Services Administration (GSA) projects, and improves public safety at federal buildings. Tim advocates for clean water through the Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act. Dr. Petty earned a PhD from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (College of Engineering and Mines in Water Science), a Master of Science from the University of Maryland University College (Business Management), and a Bachelor of Science in Geosciences from Purdue University.

## [Eric Sapirstein, Founder and President, ENS Resources, Inc.](#)



Eric Sapirstein founded ENS Resources, Inc. in 1986 after leadership positions at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington-based consulting firms. For more than three decades, his firm has focused on legislative and regulatory affairs consulting for public and private sector interests, engaged in water sector policy issues. His work on behalf of local and regional governments as well as national organizations that serve the public's interest in safe and reliable water supplies is a centerpiece of the firm's priorities. From water infrastructure financing to developing policy responses to address emerging needs of climate resiliency, his firm has worked with policymakers in Congress, the Federal bureaucracy and throughout the stakeholder community to fashion solutions that deliver improved water quality and supply.

Throughout his career, Mr. Sapirstein has been a recognized leader in environmental protection and innovative energy policy issues. Prior to establishing ENS, he was a policy and governmental Affairs Analyst with JSCF, Inc. He focused on regulatory and legislative initiatives related to Appropriations, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and forestry management. Mr. Sapirstein received two Special Achievement Awards, recognizing superior work that helped ensure passage of the Superfund Act.

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## [Sarah Swig, Policy Advisor, Senator Alex Padilla at US Senate](#)



Sarah Swig is the Policy Advisor for Senator Alex Padilla at the US Senate. She plays a crucial role in translating public opinion into legislative action. Her work centers around addressing the climate crisis and advancing environmental justice. As a policy advisor to her home-state senator, she collaborates with experts across various fields, including scientist, researchers, state and local governments, tribal communities, and more. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, International Development, and Spanish from Tulane University.

## [Nushat Thomas, Cybersecurity Chief, EPA's Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division \(WICRD\)](#)



Nushat Thomas is the Cybersecurity Branch Chief within the EPA's Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division (WICRD). As the Cybersecurity Branch Chief, she leads a team of cybersecurity analysts. Their mission is to ensure water and wastewater systems are prepared to respond and recover from cyber incidents. Nushat joined the EPA in 2009 and is a key player in both the Communications and Interdependencies Team and the Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Team. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Johnson C. Smith University and Master of Science in Environmental Studies from Virginia Commonwealth University.

## [Holly Wade, Executive Director, National Federation of Independent Businesses \(NFIB\) Research Center](#)



Holly Wade is the executive director of the NFIB Research Center, where she has 18 years of experience conducting original research on the small business sector focusing on small business economic conditions, business operations, and public policy issues impacting small firms. She produces NFIB's monthly Small Business Economic Trends publication, the Covid-19 Small Business survey series, and surveys on topics related to small business operations. She is also a frequent media spokesperson on the small business economy and related public policy issues. Since 2020, Ms. Wade has been offering a regular webinar series for small business owners nationwide, helping owners navigate through the federal loan and tax credit programs. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Global Interdependence Center (GIC), and a former board member of the National Association for Business Economics (NABE), where she is the co-chair of the Small Business Roundtable.

## [Jennifer Walker, Director, Infrastructure Cyber Defense at Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center \(WaterISAC\)](#)



Jennifer Walker serves as Director, Infrastructure Cyber Defense for WaterISAC. WaterISAC is a vital partnership that enhances security within the water sector by facilitating information sharing and analysis. She is a cybersecurity professional with over twenty years' experience supporting critical infrastructure and SLTT governments. Jennifer advises and consults on cyber threats related to homeland security for critical infrastructure and vital lifeline sectors. She is experienced in malware analysis, threat assessments, cyber threat intelligence, compliance, and cybersecurity awareness. Jennifer was instrumental in developing "15 Cybersecurity Fundamental" guide for water and wastewater utilities which covers essential practices, including vulnerability management, supply chain risk, and smart device management.

## [Lauren Wisniewski, Water and Wastewater Sector Liaison, CISA's Stakeholder Engagement Division](#)



Lauren Wisniewski is the Water and Wastewater Sector Liaison at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) Stakeholder Engagement Division. Prior to joining CISA, she worked for twenty years as an Environmental Engineer for the U.S. EPA. Lauren has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Duke University and a Master of Public Health in Environmental & Occupational Health from The George Washington University.