Under proposed Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020, Senate Bill 3590, section 6 expands existing assistance to small and disadvantaged communities programs to allow for the use of funds to purchase certified filters to remove contaminants of concern.

The US Department of Agriculture Household Well System Grant program new rule will allow point-of-use and point-of-entry products to be eligible for use of funds. WQA, NSF International, and IAPMO are working together with USDA on how the program will work.

The Water Quality Association is working with the industry on a response to the Administration to address the ongoing tariffs. The exclusion for water filters was not extended, exclusion for resin was not granted and the exclusion for activated carbon is still pending. Updates are added to WQA’s tariff webpage.

The WQA-PAC informs supporters on future government activities that will demand attention. PAC supporters lead by carrying the industry’s mission and vision to Washington, D.C. and inspire Congress to strive for safe drinking water.
Legislative Calendar

Despite the covid-19 pandemic, Congress Summer recess remains in place. Both the House and Senate have yet to meet yearly obligations, such as the must-pass National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). With elections in November, Congress will be out of session in October. This means September will be a critical month for WQA priorities.

Meeting with State Legislators—Virtually

Congressional offices are welcoming the chance to set up virtual meetings. We have hosted several GoToMeetings with sentate and house staff. We provide a prepared handout prior to the meeting and the virtual setting allows more time and focus. For example, in one week we met separately with the offices of Senator Van Hollen, Senator Markey, and Senator Whitehouse.

COVID-19: Business Assistance

Check out all the funding assistance resources as well as technical and regulatory support for you on WQA's covid-19 webpage. There is information on the paycheck protection program, small business administration loans and other financial assistance programs. In May, there was a live webinar for all members reviewing technical guidance on reopening buildings. You can watch the recording on WQA's webinar webpage.

LIVE All Member Government Affairs Forecast Webinar

In June we held a live webinar for all members on how the United States is reopening after shelter-in-place orders are lifted and the outlook on state and federal legislatures and agency activities. During the shelter-in-place orders, many legislatures worked to end sessions or went on recess. We discussed state and federal government priorities and initiatives following reopening, as well as, look at what government agencies, like the Federal EPA, have been doing while they remained open. We also examined EPA’s work on regulating PFAS and updating the Lead and Copper Rule, other opportunities through state and federal programs, and the US/China Tariffs. You can watch the recording on WQA's webinar webpage.
Thank you to our members who are actively participating in our political dialogue through the WQA-PAC:

Bret Tangley—Sterling Water, Inc. ★ PAC Ambassador 2020
Mike Mecca—Performance Water Products ★ PAC Ambassador 2020
Richard Mest—Master Water Conditioning
Chris Wilker—EcoWater Systems
Kurt Gruett—Water-Right
Larry Gottlieb—ResinTech
DJ Shannahan—Sharp Water Culligan
Tom Harrington—DS Services of America
Don McGhee—Hydro Systems

Visit wqa.org/pac to learn how WQA is supporting your voice in Washington DC.

Thank you to Bret Tangle and Mike Mecca for promoting WQA-PACs mission to association members. To become a PAC Ambassador contact Kathleen Burbidge at kburbidge@wqa.org or 630-505-0609.
Over 35 WQA members came to Washington, DC for Water Resources Congressional Summit, WQA’s two-day annual DC Fly-In. We engaged congressional members and federal agencies in conversations surrounding our industry’s vital role in providing drinking water solutions and services.

We heard from David Ross, Assistant Administrator of EPA’s Office of Water; Representative Paul Tonko; Pete Johnson with Great Lakes Alliance; and a congressional staff panel. WQA members wrapped up the first day meeting with the Honorable Dick Gephardt and having a reception in the House Ways & Means Committee Room.

On the Hill, WQA members were assigned to small teams and had 5-6 meetings with congressional offices. Overall, we met with over 60 offices to share your stories.

We encourage all WQA members to join the fly-in. Every year, the event date is chosen after congress has set its calendar. A save-the-day and registration for the 2021 Fly-In will be posted December 2020.