

United States Department of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Agriculture 1400 Independence Avenue SW Washington, DC 20250 www.rd.usda.gov

News Release

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Trump Administration Invests \$268 Million in Rural Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements in 28 States

Projects Will Improve Rural Water Infrastructure for 1700+ Rural Residents in New Hampshire

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22, 2020 – The Trump Administration today announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) <u>is investing \$268 million to modernize</u> rural drinking water and wastewater infrastructure across 28 states, including two communities in rural New Hampshire.

USDA Rural Development State Director Anthony Linardos was pleased to announce <u>the</u> <u>investments</u> in a recent statement. "Delivering safe drinking water and modernizing wastewater management improves public health and drives economic development," he said. "Adequate water and wastewater treatment are crucial in securing the well-being of rural Americans, and these essential projects will provide a healthier place to live and do business for generations to come. Under the leadership of President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Perdue, the USDA is making huge impacts on small towns across America by upgrading and implementing this core infrastructure."

Background:

USDA is funding 76 projects through the <u>Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant</u> <u>Program</u>. These investments will help to improve rural water infrastructure for 267,000 residents. Impacted communities in New Hampshire include:

- The town of Epping, granted \$7.29 million and loaned \$5.73 million for implementing a renewable energy system into its wastewater treatment facility. The initiative will feature a new solar field to replace wastewater lagoons, positively impacting more than 1700 residents by improving the area's soil and water quality, while reducing operational and maintenance costs at the facility.
- Woody Hollow Cooperative—a small community in Boscawen, NH—received \$956,000 in USDA WEP funding to upgrade its drinking water infrastructure by replacing aging pipes and materials to improve water quality for its 68 users.

The investments that USDA announced today are being made in Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia.

To learn more about investment resources for rural areas, interested parties should contact their <u>USDA Rural Development state office</u>.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure

improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit <u>www.rd.usda.gov</u>.

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