

From: Colleen Haley <colleenh@cdda.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 11:01 AM
To: rexd@steges.com
Subject: ACTION REQUESTED: H.R. 7525 The Special District Grant Accessibility Act
Importance: High

Hi Rex,

I already have another request for you. Sorry about that! Thanks for reviewing it on behalf of your district...and please let me know if you have any questions.

As you know, the National Special Districts Coalition (NSDC), in partnership with CDDA and other NSDC members, has worked diligently with our congressional sponsors and the U.S. House Oversight Committee to develop consensus bill language on a critical piece of federal legislation that reflects input from Congress and relevant executive agencies. The bill, H.R. 7525, also known as the "The Special District Grant Accessibility Act" is moving fast, and CDDA is asking special districts to contact your U.S. Representative requesting they vote in favor of the it.

H.R. 7525 was introduced on March 5th in bipartisan fashion by Pat Fallon (R-TX) and Brittany Pettersen (D-CO) and is sponsored by NSDC of which CDDA is a founding member. It also embodies the National Special District Coalition's (NSDC's) longstanding legislative objective of codifying in federal law a first-ever, formal definition of "special district." **In addition to establishing such a definition, H.R. 7525 would direct federal agencies to recognize special districts as local governments for the purpose of ensuring that districts are eligible to receive appropriate forms of federal assistance, including funding and resources through key grant programs.**

CALL TO ACTION

In preparation for successful action on the House Floor, CDDA is calling all special districts to reach out to their Representatives in Congress to urge them to support H.R. 7525.

- **No later than April 5, 2024, please [submit your authorization](#) to allow CDDA to include your organization on our Coalition Letter; OR**
- ***Use the attached Sample Support Letter and send to your local Congressional Representative(s) and please copy CDDA at Advocacy@CDDA.net.***

If you need help identifying or contacting your Congressional Representative, visit: [Find Your Representative | house.gov](#) or let me know if I can help!

Thank you!

Colleen

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STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT

District Manager/Engineer:
Rex Delizo, P.E.

District Counsel:
Kristopher Kokotaylo

Board of Directors:
Tessa Beach
Juliet Christian-Smith
Paul Gilbert-Snyder
Dwight Merrill
Beatrice R. O'Keefe

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

The Honorable John Garamendi
U.S. House of Representatives
2004 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515



RE: Support Request – H.R. 7525 Special District Grant Accessibility Act

Dear Representative Garamendi:

On behalf of the Stege Sanitary District, we respectfully request that you support the Special District Grant Accessibility Act (H.R. 7525). This important bipartisan legislation was overwhelmingly approved by the House Oversight and Accountability Committee on March 7 and is now awaiting action by the full House. We urge you to work with congressional leadership to ensure that the legislation is considered in a timely fashion.

The Stege Sanitary District provides sanitary sewer services to Kensington, El Cerrito and a portion of Richmond known as the Richmond Annex and currently operates and maintains 148 miles of sanitary sewers and two pumping stations serving over 35,000 residents residing within our District boundaries.

H.R. 7525 would require the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue guidance to federal agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local governments for the purpose of federal financial assistance determinations. The bill also would codify in federal law a long-overdue, formal definition of “special district.”

Special districts are local governments created by the people of a community to deliver specialized services essential to their health, safety, economy, and well-being. In the State of California, there are over 2,000 special districts providing a broad range of essential services and infrastructure.

Despite the significance of special districts throughout the United States, federal law lacks a consistent definition of these special purpose units of local government. As a result, some communities served by special districts face challenges in accessing federal funding opportunities as their local service providers are commonly omitted from the definition of eligible units of local government in legislative proposals that authorize federal programs and funding. Moreover, special districts lack official population figures and are therefore not recognized by the U.S. Census Bureau as “geographic units of government.” As a result, special districts are unable to gain access to certain formula-driven grants and resources.

Again, we urge you to support the *Special District Grant Accessibility Act* and to work with your House colleagues to prioritize passage of this critically important bill. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

STEGE SANITARY DISTRICT



Rex Delizo

District Manager

cc: California Special Districts Association [via email: advocacy@cdda.net]