

ONE PAGE SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Hearing on “The Role of the States in Protecting the Environment Under Current Law”

Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy

Friday, February 15, 2013

Sarah Pillsbury, President; Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

- **Who Are We?** The Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) represents the collective interests of the 50 state drinking water programs, the District of Columbia, the five territories, and the Navajo Nation.
- **State Commitment to the Mission:** State drinking water program personnel are fully committed to their public health protection mission.
- **State Personnel are Trained for the Job, Have Knowledge of Local Conditions, and Provide Needed Assistance:** State personnel also have the necessary background and expertise to administer these programs. State personnel also have the on-the-ground knowledge about how to best tailor Federal programs to state needs and conditions.
- **How do States Administer Their Programs and Ensure Compliance with Drinking Water Regulations?** In brief, this responsibility involves informing water systems of requirements; ensuring that water systems have the capability to implement and comply with those requirements; and providing oversight to ensure that they continue to comply.
- **What is EPA’s Role and How is the State-EPA Partnership Working?** States view this partnership as essential to achieving our collective goals. We believe the partnership should be (and currently is) one of mutual respect that allows each partner to do what they do best.
- **Technical Challenges in Implementing State Drinking Water Programs:** Effective public health protection must involve strategies for both large and small public water systems. States are also challenged by implementing complex regulations.
- **What are ASDWA’s Views of Hydrofracturing?** We await the results of EPA’s Congressionally mandated four year study to help shed light on the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and drinking water resources and whether additional support of states’ efforts is needed.
- **Programmatic Challenges in Implementing State Drinking Water Programs – What Can Congress Do?** States urgently need more resources for administering their programs.
- **What is the Role of State Drinking Water Programs in Ensuring the Security of Drinking Water?** State drinking water programs are critical partners in emergency planning, response, and resiliency at all levels of government.