Legislation and Communications Committee

Report on Activities From Washington, D.C.

Item 6b

September 14, 2026

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Legislation & Communications Committee

Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Subject

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Purpose

To provide a legislative update.

Legislation & Communications Committee

Federal Update

S.3738, the MORE Water Act

- Extends three USBR grant programs
  - Large-Scale Water Recycling
  - Title XVI Water Recycling
  - Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration
- Amended to remove new grant program to help fund repairs to water conveyance systems
- Bill Advanced Out of Committee

Legislation & Communications Committee

Water Cyber Shield Act

ADAM SCHIFF
U.S. SENATOR for CALIFORNIA

Sens. Schiff, Klobuchar Release Comprehensive Cybersecurity Bill in Wake of Recent Cyberattacks on Water Infrastructure

Bill would give EPA explicit oversight authority on state water systems, something previous administrations were unable to implement even after cyberattacks

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) and Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) are unveiling legislation today to meet the increased need for cybersecurity improvements in America's water infrastructure in the wake of recent cyberattacks penetrating utilities and historic inability for coordinated federal response.

The comprehensive legislation would strengthen federal oversight by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), provide critical funding for local utilities, and safeguard drinking water and wastewater systems from cyberattacks.

The new bill comes as federal officials have warned of an alarming increase in cyberattacks against water utilities. In recent days, coordinated attacks targeted more than 30 community water systems across multiple states, underscoring the vulnerability of aging infrastructure and the potential for the contamination of clean drinking water for millions of Americans. Cyberattacks can also cause significant financial damage to municipalities and local utilities, including through ransomware payments that can be passed through to households in the form of higher water bills.

"Every American depends on safe, reliable drinking water, yet recent events have exposed just how vulnerable our water systems remain to cyberattacks by foreign adversaries and criminal entities. These threats are not hypothetical—they are happening right now. This legislation gives EPA the tools it needs to protect this critical infrastructure while providing the resources that local water and wastewater systems need to strengthen their cybersecurity without passing the cost on to ratepayers," **said Senator Schiff.**

"The recent cyberattacks on Minnesota have highlighted the urgent need to improve the security of our water systems and critical infrastructure. Our legislation will direct the EPA to assess water infrastructure cybersecurity and identify vulnerabilities, and help municipal water systems defend against cyber threats. Protecting our critical infrastructure and the safety of Minnesotans is a top priority," **said Senator Klobuchar.**

The EPA serves as the federal Sector Risk Management Agency for the water sector, but it currently lacks many of the authorities necessary to oversee cybersecurity across the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems. This legislation fills the gap exposed in 2023 when the Biden administration was forced to abandon a proposal for stronger cybersecurity guidelines after lawsuits by states over lack of explicit authority.

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Legislation &
Communications Committee

Congressional Calendar

FY27 Appropriations

Continuing Resolution

- Runs until December 11th
- FY26 Funding Levels
- Delays OMB Grant Review Rule

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
1928