

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 2019 (FY20) FEDERAL PRIORITIES FOR NC COUNTIES



**Information provided by
North Carolina Association of County Commissioners
NCACC Federal Government Relations Consultant**

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NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHO WE ARE: Founded in 1908, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) is one of the most successful and active statewide local government associations in the nation. All 100 counties in the state are members of the NCACC and the National Association of Counties (NACo). Members of the association include commissioners, county management, and county staff.

THE FEDERAL PRIORITIES: Prior to each new Congress, the NCACC solicits requests for federal priorities from all 100 counties. Those recommendations are considered by the NCACC Board of Directors, a 50 member Board made up of elected commissioners from around the state. The full membership approves the final priorities at NCACC’s Legislative Goals Conference in January, then presents them to the North Carolina Congressional Delegation during NACo’s annual Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. NACo is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States.

We ask that our congressional delegation pay close attention to these issues, which have been updated to reflect new information relevant to the First Session of the 116th Congress, and work collaboratively with us, and NACo, to ensure that the interests of counties are upheld in all legislative activity by Congress.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Hugh Johnson, NCACC Government Relations Coordinator, Office: (919) 715-7659, Mobile: (704) 756-0616, hugh.johnson@ncacc.org

2019 (FY20) FEDERAL PRIORITIES FOR NC COUNTIES: *A Quick Guide to Our Issues*

Go to www.ncacc.org/federalissues for more information.

Support Funding and Legislation to Expand High-Speed Broadband Access — Adequate digital infrastructure is essential for education, economic development, health care and social services; however, many portions of North Carolina counties do not have access to high-speed Internet. Counties urge Congress to provide digital infrastructure funding and adopt legislation that clarifies Federal Communications Commission (FCC) definitions for speed thresholds and unserved areas.

Support Increased Funding for Disaster Preparation, Assistance and Mitigation as well as Legislation that Expedites and Expands County Use of Federal Disaster Assistance Funds — In 2016, Hurricane Matthew caused an estimated \$4.8 billion in damage to North Carolina. Before Matthew recovery was complete, Hurricane Florence caused at least \$17 billion in damage and took 43 lives in September 2018. One month later, Tropical Storm Michael took additional lives, caused millions more in damage, and left state and local resources strained even further. Counties throughout the state need long-term federal assistance for recovery and disaster preparedness efforts before more storms occur. Counties need flexibility when receiving and prioritizing funds, and counties need resources to get to communities in a timely manner.

Support Funding for Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT), Agricultural, Conservation, Workforce, Economic Development, and Infrastructure Programs that Help Counties Meet Public Needs — Funding for programs that maintain partnerships between federal and county governments in meeting demand for public services should remain a priority for Congress. In both rural and urban areas, counties rely on federal-local partnerships to support community and economic development, and public infrastructure.

Support Measures to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illness in County Jails Such as Those Identified in NACo's "Stepping Up Initiative" — In North Carolina, 17 percent of the total inmate population has a mental health diagnosis. Without appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses can continue to cycle through the criminal justice system. Legislation and federal funding are needed to help counties develop and implement efforts to reduce the number of people with mental illness in county jails.

Support Funding for Behavioral Health Programs and Services to Address the Opioid and Substance Abuse Epidemic and Support Flexibility to Counties to Use Funds for Prevention and Recovery — The United States is in the midst of an unprecedented opioid and substance abuse epidemic. North Carolina counties are on the front lines of this battle working with the state to develop and fund substance abuse and overdose inhibition programs, but progress is limited without consistent funding and support from Congress.

Support Funding for Health, Human and Economic Services Programs Including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Food and Nutrition Services and Federal Block Grants — Counties are the first responders providing services to the public locally and, in particular, our nation's vulnerable populations. Since many of these services are mandated by federal law the federal government provides funding to assist states and counties in meeting local demands—this funding should be protected in upcoming budgets.

Oppose Unfunded Mandates and Changes in Eligibility for Federal Programs that Shift Costs to Counties — Reductions in federal deficits should not be accomplished by shifting costs to counties, imposing unfunded mandates. Counties also oppose any legislative or regulatory initiatives that undermine local government decision making authority or pre-empt county programs and taxing authority.

Support Timely Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, including Greater Flexibility and Increased Funding to Fully Restore Programs to Pre-Sequestration Levels – The Older Americans Act (OAA) must be authorized before it expires September 30, 2019. Counties rely on the OAA for support through programs and services provided to individuals aged 60 and over. OAA must be reauthorized on time, with greater flexibility for counties administering the programs and services and that restores programs to pre-sequestration funding levels.

Support Coordination with State and Local Governments when a Federal Agency, such as EPA, Seeks to Regulate Emerging Contaminants and Other Discharges into Drinking Water Resources — The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classifies certain large and complex industrial chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as “emerging contaminants” that need research so that the agency can set limits. Counties urge Congress to insist that the EPA maintains coordination with state and local governments throughout this process.



SUPPORT FUNDING AND LEGISLATION TO EXPAND HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND ACCESS

Adequate digital infrastructure is essential for education, economic development, health care and social services; however, many portions of North Carolina counties do not have access to high-speed Internet. Counties urge Congress to provide digital infrastructure funding and adopt legislation that clarifies Federal Communications Commission (FCC) definitions for speed thresholds and unserved areas.

Relevant Committee and the North Carolina Member of Congress serving on it:

House Appropriations Committee – Representative David Price

House Energy and Commerce Committee – Representatives G.K. Butterfield and Richard Hudson

House Ways and Means Committee – Representative George Holding

Senate Finance Committee – Senator Richard Burr

March 2019 Update:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will award \$600 million in loans and grants to help build broadband infrastructure in rural America under the new ReConnect Program. USDA will make available approximately \$200 million for grants (applications due to USDA by April 29), as well as \$200 million for loan and grant combinations (applications due May 29), and \$200 million for low-interest loans (applications due by June 28). The program will receive \$550 million in FY19. These resources are limited to areas without access to connectivity speeds of 10Mbps download and 1Mbps upload.

Talking Points:

- Broadband access has become a necessity for normal communications in our economy and society.
- With little competition among service providers in rural America, prices are often higher in these regions or not present at all. Additional investment in broadband availability will help shift costs and prices down.
- NC counties request that our congressional delegation support annual investments and initiatives that give access to high-speed Internet connectivity at speeds greater than are currently being targeted.
- We appreciate the \$7.5 million in FY19 appropriations for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to update the National Broadband Map starting with eight states, including North Carolina, and ask that our congressional delegation work to ensure adequate funds remain available to complete the task.

SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING FOR DISASTER PREPARATION, ASSISTANCE AND MITIGATION AS WELL AS LEGISLATION THAT EXPEDITES AND EXPANDS COUNTY USE OF FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE FUNDS

In 2016, Hurricane Matthew caused an estimated \$4.8 billion in damage to North Carolina. Before Matthew recovery was complete, Hurricane Florence caused at least \$17 billion in damage and took 43 lives in September 2018. One month later, Tropical Storm Michael took additional lives, caused millions more in damage, and left state and local resources strained even further. Counties throughout the state need long-term federal assistance for recovery and disaster preparedness efforts before more storms occur. Counties need flexibility when receiving and prioritizing funds, and counties need resources to get to communities in a timely manner.

Relevant Committee and the North Carolina Member of Congress serving on it:

- House Appropriations Committee – Representative David Price

March 2019 Update:

The FY19 Omnibus Appropriations bill signed into law February 15, 2019, did not include disaster relief funding. As a result, North Carolina Senators Thom Tillis and Richard Burr signed on to a bipartisan letter urging congressional leaders to promptly pass disaster supplemental funding legislation to help communities recover in the aftermath of recent natural disasters.

Talking Points:

- Ask your legislators to support long-term disaster relief funding for North Carolina counties.
- NC has weathered two “500-year floods” in two years and three in fewer than 20 years.
- NC ranks 4th highest in the nation for most hurricanes to make landfall.
- More than 50 of the state’s 100 counties were included in a disaster declaration in response to Hurricane Florence, which made landfall in September 2018. Per the NC Department of Public Safety (NCDPS), 139,764 people have registered for disaster assistance.
- Counties need more flexibility when applying for, receiving, and using disaster recovery funds.
- Disaster recovery funds should be distributed to impacted communities more quickly and in coordination with local leaders.

- Please Urge HUD to Fully Implement the New Fix for Hurricane Matthew Survivors.
 - Thank Congressional members for passing legislation last fall that fixed a duplication of benefits rule to allow certain Hurricane Matthew survivors, who were approved by SBA for loans to access CDBG-DR funds.
 - Explain that prior to the fix, anyone who was approved for home repair money from the Small Business Administration (SBA) in the wake of Hurricane Matthew had that loan counted against them in the CDBG-DR awards process.
 - Cite Governor Cooper's estimates that once the new law is implemented, the fix will open up federal funding for almost 2,000 North Carolinians.
 - Ask your member to urge HUD to fully implement the new law so all North Carolinians can move forward with their recovery.
- Please Expedite HUD Guidance on CDBG-DR Funding for Hurricane Florence Recovery.
 - Thank Congress for appropriating Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds (CDBG-DR) for areas impacted by Hurricane Florence.
 - Explain that this flexible source of funds is urgently needed and cite specific examples if possible.
 - Stress that as an impacted county, you are eager for HUD to publish the federal register notice for the program, which will specify how much money will be allocated to North Carolina and other important CDBG-DR program information.
 - Note that the state is being held up and cannot move forward on its action plan for the CDBG-DR program until HUD officially issues its guidance.
 - Ask your member to request that HUD expedite the CDBG-DR rule making process, so the state and local governments can start planning for a successful recovery.

SUPPORT FUNDING FOR PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT), AGRICULTURAL, CONSERVATION, WORKFORCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS THAT HELP COUNTIES MEET PUBLIC NEEDS

Funding for programs that maintain partnerships between federal and county governments in meeting demand for public services should remain a priority for Congress. In both rural and urban areas, counties rely on federal-local partnerships to support community and economic development, and public infrastructure.

Relevant Committees and the North Carolina Members of Congress serving on them:

- House Agriculture Committee – Representatives Alma Adams (Vice Chair) and David Rouzer
- House Appropriations Committee – Representative David Price

PILT reauthorization is under the jurisdiction of the House Natural Resources and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committees. However, without members from the state on these committees, NCACC recommends highlighting the issue with the members serving on the committees as listed above.

March 2019 Update:

NACo provides a PILT advocacy toolkit on its website: <http://www.naco.org/resources/pilt-advocacy-toolkit>. A five-year reauthorization of the Farm Bill was signed into law by President Trump on December 20, 2018; it includes new benefits to counties. <https://www.naco.org/blog/president-signs-five-year-farm-bill-reauthorization-containing-several-key-wins-counties>

Talking Points:

- The PILT program provides payments to counties and other local governments to offset losses in tax revenues due to the presence of tax-exempt federal land in their jurisdictions; revenues needed to help support vital services provided by counties.
- North Carolina counties applaud Congress for fully funding PILT at \$500 million in FY19 appropriations and encourage the same in FY20. However, Congress needs to pass a mandatory, long-term, full funding reauthorization for PILT to remove the uncertainty to small counties that rely on this funding annually.
- US public schools need \$46 billion a year to provide education facilities to meet modern standards (according to 2016 report). Counties also oppose further cuts to USDA Rural Development programs, particularly those that target local and regional priorities.
- Counties support maximum funding for Impact Aid and programs like it that recognize the federal-local shared responsibility in providing services that support our nation's military communities.

SUPPORT MEASURES TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS IN COUNTY JAILS SUCH AS THOSE IDENTIFIED IN NACO'S "STEPPING UP INITIATIVE"

In North Carolina, 17 percent of the total inmate population has a mental health diagnosis. Without appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses can continue to cycle through the criminal justice system. Legislation and federal funding are needed to help counties develop and implement efforts to reduce the number of people with mental illness in county jails.

Relevant Committees and the North Carolina Members of Congress serving on them:

- House Appropriations Committee – Representative David Price

March 2019 Update:

Urge Members to fully fund the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHC). The JMHC was reauthorized for FY17-21 through the 21st Century Cures Act (P.L. 114-255) at \$50 million per year and should be funded at this level annually to ensure that counties have the federal support they need to help address mental illness in the criminal justice system. The JMHC does not typically receive full funding; for example in FY19, the JMHC has been funded at \$31 million.

Talking Points:

- Each year an estimated two million people with serious mental illness are admitted to jail across the nation. Almost three-quarters of these adults also have drug and alcohol use problems.
- Without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses can continue to cycle through the criminal justice system. Support is needed for legislation and funding to help counties develop and implement efforts to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in county jails.
- Although counties have made tremendous efforts to address this problem, they are still facing significant obstacles, including operating with minimal resources and needing better coordination between federal agencies that provide programs with assistance such as those for criminal justice, mental health, substance abuse treatment, and other agencies.

SUPPORT FUNDING FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO ADDRESS THE OPIOID AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE EPIDEMIC AND SUPPORT FLEXIBILITY FOR COUNTIES TO USE FUNDS FOR PREVENTION AND RECOVERY

The United States is in the midst of an unprecedented opioid and substance abuse epidemic. North Carolina counties are on the front lines of this battle working with the state to develop and fund substance abuse and overdose inhibition programs, but progress is limited without consistent funding and support from Congress.

Relevant Committees and the North Carolina Members of Congress serving on them:

- House Appropriations Committee – Representative David Price

March 2019 Update:

The SUPPORT Act for Patients and Communities was signed into law on October 24, 2018 (P.L. 115-271). The comprehensive, 660-page bill focuses on improving the federal response to the opioid epidemic via changes to Medicaid and Medicare, expansion of treatment resources for health care providers and enhancement of recovery supports for patients. FY19 Consolidated Appropriations includes billions of dollars in many different federal agencies and programs to fund provisions of the SUPPORT Act and other programs already in place for fighting the opioid epidemic.

Talking Points:

- In North Carolina in 2017, the number of deaths from drug overdoses was the 2nd highest in the nation.
- According to the NC Opioid Action Plan, opioid-related deaths have increased over 800% from 1999 to 2016, resulting in over 12,000 deaths.
- Tell Members of Congress how the epidemic is affecting your county. Thank them for their support of increased funding and encourage them to continue that strong support.

SUPPORT FUNDING FOR HEALTH, HUMAN AND ECONOMIC SERVICES PROGRAMS INCLUDING TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES, FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES AND FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS

Counties are the first responders providing services to the public locally and, in particular, our nation's vulnerable populations. Since many of these services are mandated by federal law the federal government provides funding to assist states and counties in meeting local demands—this funding should be protected in upcoming budgets.

Relevant Committees and the North Carolina Members of Congress serving on them:

- House Appropriations Committee – Representative David Price (All block grants) (Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, which is responsible for CDBG funding.)
- House Agriculture Committee – Representatives Alma Adams (Vice Chair) and David Rouzer (FNS)
- House Education and Labor Committee – Representatives Virginia Foxx (Ranking Member), Alma Adams, and Mark Walker (TANF, SSBG, FNS)
- House Ways and Means Committee – Representative George Holding (TANF, SSBG)
- Senate Finance Committee – Senator Richard Burr (TANF, SSBG)
- Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee – Senator Richard Burr (TANF)

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Counties use TANF dollars to provide county child protective services and for work supports such as childcare and job training. Counties share administrative costs and may also contribute to the Maintenance of Effort requirements. Long-term reauthorization of TANF should provide greater state and county flexibility to deliver services that support families and help move them off welfare, including allowing higher education to count as work and realistic time limits on education.

March 2019 Update:

The TANF Extension Act of 2019 was signed into law on January 24, 2019 (P.L. 116-4). This law reauthorizes the TANF program through June 30, 2019. North Carolina is one of ten states that shares TANF administration with counties.

Talking Points:

- Congress needs to pass a long-term reauthorization of TANF, which will give Congress the opportunity to revisit and improve the program, while also eliminating the uncertainty and difficulty in planning that short-term extensions create. North Carolina counties also want Congress to protect funding for the TANF Contingency Fund.
- TANF reauthorization should provide greater state and county flexibility to deliver services that support families and help move them off welfare, including allowing higher education to count as work activities and the ability to provide partial credit to families with special needs that prevent them from always being able to meet the full participation requirements.

Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)

SSBG provides funds to states for activities that serve vulnerable populations, including adults and children at risk of abuse and neglect. The State of North Carolina passes the funds directly to counties. SSBG has been funded at \$1.7 billion since 2001, but it was funded as high as \$2.8 billion from 1991 to 1995. Counties request that Congress protect the SSBG and support full funding.

March 2019 Update

States may transfer up to 10% of their TANF funds to SSBG.

Talking Points:

- Tell House Members what your county does with these funds and ask them to protect and preserve the program.
- Federal law mandates that child protective services and foster care be provided to neglected and abused children. SSBG funds are used to support foster care placements for children who are otherwise ineligible for the federal foster care program, and support direct child support services in NC.
- SSBG is currently the only source of federal funds for adult protective services, which is frequently a county responsibility in NC.
- SSBG expenditures for substance abuse services, such as opioid addiction, increased by 125 percent from 2010 to 2014, which helped over 118,000 individuals receive substance abuse treatment or participate in prevention programs across the country.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Counties use CDBG and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) funds for projects related to housing, community and economic development, water and infrastructure projects, and human services. The flexibility of these funds allows counties to partner with the private and non-profit sectors to address community needs.

March 2019 Update:

FY19 Appropriations included \$3.3 billion for CDBG, an increase of 2% from FY18.

Talking Points:

- According to HUD, for every \$1 of CDBG funding, another \$4.07 is leveraged in private and/or public sector funding. Yet, \$1 billion was cut from CDBG FY10 (25%). NC counties oppose further cuts as well as changes to the program that cause entitlement communities to lose entitlement status.
- Thank Members of Congress for funding CDBG at recent-year levels; request continuation of the same in FY20 and urge Congress to increase funding to help recover from FY10 cuts and inflation.

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

FNS Programs, including but not limited to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP); Women, Infants and Children (WIC); and the National School Lunch Program, serve one in four Americans annually.

March 2019 Update:

FY19 appropriations provided more than \$73 billion in mandatory funding and \$998,000 in discretionary funding, a decrease of \$536 million from FY18. This reflects decreasing participation in SNAP and a continued drop in average food costs per person / per month. Also included is approximately \$6 billion for WIC, down \$100 million from FY18 levels, but which is considered full funding needed to meet expected participation.

Talking Points:

- These programs are used by counties to improve diet quality among children and low-income people and to reduce food insecurity.
- Thank Congress for protecting the SNAP program during reauthorization of the Farm Bill.
- Child Nutrition Reauthorization provides Congress with an opportunity every five years to improve and strengthen the WIC and school meal programs, among others. The current law, Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (P.L. 11-296), expired on September 30, 2015, but the programs continue to operate through annual appropriations. Congress should provide long-term reauthorization.
- In North Carolina, WIC serves more than 270,000 women, infants, and children each month.

OPPOSE UNFUNDED MANDATES AND CHANGES IN ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS THAT SHIFT COSTS TO COUNTIES

Reductions in federal deficits should not be accomplished by shifting costs to counties, imposing unfunded mandates. Counties also oppose any legislative or regulatory initiatives that undermine local government decision making authority or pre-empt county programs and taxing authority.

Relevant Committees and the North Carolina Members of Congress serving on them:

- House Oversight and Government Reform Committee – Representatives Virginia Foxx and Mark Meadows
- House Appropriations Committee – Representative David Price
- House Ways and Means Committee – Representative George Holding
- Senate Finance Committee – Senator Richard Burr

March 2019 Update:

Representative Virginia Foxx's bill, H.R. 300 Unfunded Mandates and Information and Transparency Act, was re-introduced on January 8, 2019.

Talking Points:

- Thank Representative Virginia Foxx for her leadership in introducing the Unfunded Mandates and Information and Transparency Act, bipartisan legislation that works to improve the requirements of Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).
- Thank Representatives George Holding, Richard Hudson, Patrick McHenry, Mark Meadows, David Rouzer and Mark Walker and for supporting passage of this legislation in the past. (The North Carolina Congressional Delegation voted along party lines, with Representatives Alma Adams, G.K. Butterfield and David Price opposing the bill.)
- North Carolina counties request passage of Representative Foxx's bill or similar legislation that works to prevent passing unfunded mandates on to counties.

SUPPORT TIMELY REAUTHORIZATION OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT, INCLUDING GREATER FLEXIBILITY AND INCREASED FUNDING TO FULLY RESTORE PROGRAMS TO PRE-SEQUESTRATION LEVELS

The Older Americans Act (OAA) must be authorized before it expires September 30, 2019. Counties rely on the OAA for support through programs and services provided to individuals aged 60 and over. OAA must be reauthorized on time, with greater flexibility for counties administering the programs and services and that restores programs to pre-sequestration funding levels.

Relevant Committees and the North Carolina Members of Congress serving on them:

- Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee – Senator Richard Burr
- House Education and Labor Committee – Representatives Virginia Foxx (Ranking Member), Alma Adams and Mark Walker
- Special Committee on Aging – Senator Richard Burr

March 2019 Update

Legislation to reauthorize the OAA in 2019 has not yet been introduced.

Talking Points:

- North Carolina ranks ninth nationally, both in total population and in the number of people 65 and over. In 2025, one in five North Carolinians will be 65 and over.
- In 2017, 78 counties in the state had more people 60 and over than under 18 years. By 2025, this number is expected to increase to 89 counties and by 2037 to 94 counties.
- In the next two decades, the state's 65 and over population will increase from 1.6 to 2.6 million, a projected growth of 64%. The projected growth among the age groups 65-74 (38%), 75-84 (100%) and 85+ (111%) indicates that as the baby boomers continue to age, there will be an increased proportion of older adults in the state creating challenges for long-term services and supports.

SUPPORT COORDINATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WHEN A FEDERAL AGENCY, SUCH AS EPA, SEEKS TO REGULATE EMERGING CONTAMINANTS AND OTHER DISCHARGES INTO DRINKING WATER RESOURCES

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classifies certain large and complex industrial chemicals called per-and-polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as “emerging contaminants” that need research so that the agency can set limits. Counties urge Congress to insist that the EPA maintains coordination with state and local governments throughout this process.

Relevant Committees and the North Carolina Members of Congress serving on them:

- House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment – Representative David Rouzer

March 2019 Update:

On February 14, 2019, Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler announced that the EPA will move forward with additional regulatory actions as part of its comprehensive PFAS management plan. Senator Tillis called this a first step and pledged to continue “working across the aisle to introduce bipartisan legislation to protect North Carolinians from contamination.”

Talking Points:

- Emerging contaminants have been found in the Cape Fear River, which serves as the primary source of drinking water for Bladen, Brunswick, New Hanover, and Pender counties. These chemicals do not break down easily and are not easily removed from drinking water.
- Urge coordination between EPA and state and local governments on contamination issues.
- Without federal standards, states have had to create their own drinking water regulations, resulting in conflicting guidelines and standards.