

Support the Innovative Stormwater Solutions Act of 2013

Background

NACWA has been at the forefront of efforts to advocate for the use of innovative stormwater solutions such as green infrastructure in order to address the nation's clean water challenges that result from wet weather. Green infrastructure captures or diverts stormwater that otherwise would go directly into the sewer system and uses natural mechanisms for treatment. This method for addressing water management challenges provides a 21st Century tool to reduce flooding and sewer overflows, improve cost savings, increase energy efficiency, and protect our Nation's water resources.

The Innovative Stormwater Solutions Act of 2013

Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) and Representative Donna Edwards (D-MD) plan to introduce legislation, *The Innovative Stormwater Solutions Act*, later this spring. The bill would offer critical support to improve our Nation's management of polluted runoff and sewer overflows through innovative stormwater strategies.

Specifically, the proposed legislation would:

- Encourage investment in planning, development and implementation of community-based green infrastructure projects.
- Ensure that the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water and other programs promote the use of innovative stormwater solutions in planning, research, funding guidance, technical assistance and permitting.
- Establish Centers of Excellence for innovative stormwater control infrastructure across the country to conduct research, develop proposals and industry standards, provide training and technical assistance to states, local governments, and collaborate with institutions of higher education and public and private organizations.
- Provide grants to communities to carry out innovative stormwater control infrastructure projects.

In addition to improving our nation's stormwater management, the programs supported by the *Innovative Stormwater Solutions Act* would increase innovation in green infrastructure, create jobs in many different sectors, reduce costs to treatment plants and provide additional environmental, social and economic benefits to communities across the country.



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