

HUNDREDS GATHERED IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

Hundreds of Rural Water constituents crowd the General Assembly during the National Rural Water Association's "Rural Water Rally" February 10-12, 2015 in Washington, D. C. Charles Hilton, President of the National Rural Water Association, welcomed the crowd and reminded them of "The Power of Association". President Hilton commented, "As the nation grows, it has become a challenge for elected officials to maintain the close relationships they have with their constituents. Joining their voices in an association affords rural Americans a way to ensure their views are still heard and their needs still represented."

"We have associations in all 50 states," Hilton said. "Never doubt the power of that." He also reminded the crowd of water professionals that their work is the primary strength of the Association. "The National Rural Water Association is just a name without you," Hilton said to the audience. "Your grassroots efforts and work in the field are what gives that name power. Every day, National Rural Water is advocating for rural utilities. We're working to supply our communities with clean, reliable and affordable drinking water. We're working to ensure the regulations systems must follow are affordable." President Hilton concluded his remarks by encouraging the representatives from NRWA's 31,000 members to tell their story on the Hill.

Kathy Horne, Executive Director, Alabama Rural Water Association, introduced Congressman Robert Aderholt by saying, "Congressman Aderholt represents the 4th District in Alabama. The District stretches from the border of Mississippi on the west side of the State to the Georgia border on the east and includes 14 counties. The Congressman is from Haleyville, Alabama, which is a small rural town in North Alabama. Living in this small town offers a true understanding to the Congressman of rural community needs. He understands the importance of water and the critical role it plays in economic development, job creation and



Kathy Horne introducing Congressman Robert Aderholt



Hundreds gather to listen as Congressman Robert Aderholt, Alabama Congressional District 4, gives the opening address during the Rally.



Caption here



Congressman Robert Aderholt

overall growth and sustainability. The Congressman serves on the House Appropriations Committee and currently is Chairman of the Subcommittee on Ag. He understands the significance of our rural water programs and he and his staff have supported rural water efforts for many years."

Congressman Aderholt spoke about rural water driving rural economies. "It's something I have seen firsthand," he said. The Congressman also detailed the programs and appropriations that have assisted rural communities and the future of those programs.

Following Congressman Aderholt was Undersecretary of Ag, Lisa Mensah. She detailed how impressed she has been with rural water associations and their services in her short time with USDA. Undersecretary Mensah recently visited Alabama and Kathy Horne, Executive Director, for the ARWA participated by invitation with a Partners Roundtable Meeting hosted by Ronnie Davis, State Director USDA.

The Rally was a huge success for Rural Water as constituents from across the nation visited with their Congressional delegation and proclaimed the strength, the benefits and continued need for Rural Water Training and Technical Assistance. The Rally is a united effort to inform Congress of the importance of your water and wastewater utility operation in providing clean, safe quality and affordable water for millions of rural Americans!

REPRESENTING ALABAMA WERE THE FOLLOWING:

- Kathy Horne, Alabama Rural Water Assn.
- Jerena Webb, Alabama Rural Water Assn.
- Chris Lovelace, Alabama Rural Water Assn.
- Randolph Hall, South Bullock Co. Water Authority
- Debbie Hiltz, Rainbow City Utilities Board
- Mark & Camilla Bohlin, Perdido Bay Water, Sewer & FPD
- Luke & Linda Rice, Citizens' Water Service, Inc.
- Will & Orbuty Ozier, Lowndes County Water Authority
- David White, Freemanville Water System, Inc.



Congresswoman Martha Roby and the Alabama delegation



Senator Jeff Sessions Office



Congressman Mike Rogers and the Alabama delegation



Congresswoman Terri Sewell's Office



The Alabama Constituents are ready to Rally on the Hill. From Left to Right: David White, Chris Lovelace, Jerena Webb, Kathy Horne, Mark Bohlin, Camilla Bohlin, Orbuty Ozier, Debbie Hiltz and Randolph Hall (Luke Rice, Linda Rice and Will Ozier not pictured)