Message

From: Bender, Emily [Bender.Emily@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/11/2018 11:48:29 AM
To: Dunn, Alexandra [dunn.alexandra@epa.gov]
CC: Gutro, Doug [Gutro.Doug@epa.gov]; Deegan, Dave [Deegan.Dave@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Drinking Water Week Op Ed

Perfect. Thanks so much. I'll get it out this morning.

From: Dunn, Alexandra
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 7:48 AM
To: Bender, Emily <Bender.Emily@epa.gov>
Cc: Gutro, Doug <Gutro.Doug@epa.gov>; Deegan, Dave <Deegan.Dave@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Drinking Water Week Op Ed

Sorry must have gotten buried in my email. Edits below in ALL CAPS. Please send out today. I made edits that will give it life after this week given it is going out today.

Sent from my iPhone
Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, J.D. , Regional Administrator
Region 1 New England. ***This email is for official EPA business only and may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of information Act***

On May 11, 2018, at 7:38 AM, Bender, Emily <Bender.Emily@epa.gov> wrote:

> Hi Alex-
>
> Just re-flagging this op ed for your review.
>
> Thanks so much,
>
> Emily
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> ---
>
> **From:** Bender, Emily
> **Sent:** Wednesday, May 09, 2018 12:53 PM
> **To:** Dunn, Alexandra <dunn.alexandra@epa.gov>; Deegan, Dave <Deegan.Dave@epa.gov>; Gutro, Doug <Gutro.Doug@epa.gov>
> **Subject:** Drinking Water Week Op Ed
>
> Hi Alex,
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> We have pulled together a draft Op Ed for Drinking Water week.
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> We'd love to get your feedback and get it out by the end of the week if possible.
>
> Thanks so much,
>
> Emily

CONSIDER OUR WATER RESOURCES DURING WATER'S WORTH IT MONTH

Spring is the season to celebrate new beginnings as nature sprouts. What better way to CONNECT WITH nature than to celebrate water? This May, we are happy to OBSERVE Drinking Water week AND TO JOIN the New England Water Communication Collaborative'S *Water is Worth It Month.*

Water IN ALL FORMS is critical to our health, economy, and way of life - and yet it is often taken for granted. Every day, even in times of extreme weather, we rely on safe water for drinking, cooking, bathing, and firefighting. Without much thought, we take showers, flush toilets, and reach for a glass of tap water. This MONTH, LET'S think about what it takes to maintain our safe and clean drinking water, and ask ourselves what is water is worth.

Keeping water clean and operational for citizens takes many hands. In New England, we are FORTUNATE to have thousands of drinking water managers and operators working to sustain the services of safe drinking water. Under A SUPPORT NETWORK SUSTAINED BY THE New England states and BY regional and state drinking water associations, these public health servants study and work hard to become certified in their noble profession. They keep up with aging infrastructure and emerging technologies, while continuing to run the plants, fix the leaks, CLEAR the pipes, and communicate with citizens.

There are 2,700 community public water supply systems across New England. Each one has unique challenges. Living on the coast in Rockport Massachusetts, I appreciate the beauty and vulnerabilities of our coastal waters and water infrastructure. As seen during extreme weather events, the battle of nature versus physical infrastructure has erupted in every state in New England, appreciating those vulnerabilities and preparing for the future is important to sustaining our systems.

We face other challenges, including lead, which can be present in our public and household pipes and plumbing, and which needs constant attention. Science has discovered emerging contaminants, like per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that, in some cases, are present in our ground water. We have also heard about algal blooms as a threat to our water supplies when excess nutrients enter our water systems through direct and stormwater discharges. While these challenges can seem daunting, I am convinced that it is everyone's business to get involved and with all of us pulling together we can make a difference.

We are making progress. We all know that aging infrastructure presents a growing need. New England is one of the first developed regions in the country, and our water infrastructure often reflects its age, as some of our systems are more the 100 years old. Communities face substantial gaps between infrastructure improvement needs and available funds. This is a problem we recognize and a problem we beginning to address. Recently, the U.S. EPA announced a significant increase in funding available for water infrastructure projects. The program, under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), is providing up to $5.5 billion in low-cost loans, which could leverage over $11 billion in water infrastructure projects. The time to act and take advantage of this opportunity is now. Prospective borrowers seeking WIFIA credit assistance must submit a letter of interest by July 6, 2018.

We recognize there is more to be done to keep our drinking water clean and safe for us and for future generations. I hope you will join me in thinking more about where your water comes

from and thanking the people in your community who work so tirelessly to keep your water clean and running.

<DW Op Ed_Draft (0001).docx>