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Serving Electric, Water & Wastewater Since 1886

News Release

Stoughton Utilities

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Keep Municipal Bonds Tax Exempt, Local Officials Tell D.C. Lawmakers

Eliminating the tax exemption for municipal bonds ultimately could raise taxes and the costs of services for Wisconsin residents, Stoughton Utilities Director Robert Kardasz told members of Congress while visiting Washington, D.C.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have advocated removing or limiting the tax exemption on municipal bonds to raise more money toward reducing the federal deficit. But this proposal does more harm than good, local officials said while attending the American Public Power Association's Legislative Rally, March 11-13.

Not-for-profit and governed by local leaders, public power utilities like Stoughton Utilities must preserve affordable financing options for infrastructure projects that directly benefit the community.

“Like other state and local governments nationwide, Stoughton has long issued municipal bonds to build roads, bridges, sewers, hospitals, libraries, schools, town halls, police stations, and electric and gas infrastructure for public power utilities,” said Kardasz. “Without the tax exemption, we may have to delay needed updates or raise rates for essential services like water and electricity.”

With support from power supplier WPPI Energy, utility managers and municipal leaders come together to help educate state and federal elected officials on topics unique to public power utilities and advocate for responsible energy policies that benefit their customers. This year, 43 WPPI Energy member officials participated in the APPA Legislative Rally. Two other particular areas of concern included:

- Maintaining a balanced approach to cyber security, one that does not duplicate current regulatory requirements for small electric utilities and subject them to unnecessary cost burdens; and
- Developing a legislative solution to address inconsistencies in U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission rules that place customers of municipal utilities at greater risk of price fluctuations and higher costs.

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Founded in 1886, Stoughton Utilities serves electric customers in Stoughton and the surrounding area; and wastewater and water customers in Stoughton.