



600 South Fourth Street
P.O. Box 383
Stoughton, WI 53589-0383

Serving Electric, Water & Wastewater Since 1886

News Release

Stoughton Utilities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 25, 2017

Contact: Robert Kardasz, Utilities Director

Local Leaders Advocate on National Energy Policy Issues

Municipal bonds are essential for communities like Stoughton to affordably build critical infrastructure and provide residents with essential services, and they should remain tax-exempt. That's one of the messages local officials and utility managers delivered in person to members of Congress on February 27 through March 1 in Washington, D.C., during the American Public Power Association's Annual Legislative Rally.

Utilities Director Robert Kardasz and Assistant Utilities Director Brian Hoops participated in the event with funding support from the community's not-for-profit power supplier, WPPI Energy.

Across the U.S., public power utilities like municipally owned Stoughton Utilities make \$11 billion in new investments financed with municipal bonds each year. This helps them affordably finance the power generation, distribution, efficiency and emissions controls equipment needed to deliver safe, affordable and reliable electricity for local customers.

"As Congress continues to consider possible approaches to tax reform and deficit reduction, we urged them to help us keep costs down by preserving the current tax exemption for municipal bonds," said Utilities Director Robert Kardasz. "Without tax-exempt bonding, our cost of borrowing would increase and all projects we undertake to ensure reliable delivery of power would cost our customers more on their monthly electric bills. We just don't think that is right."

Stoughton attendees met with Rep. Mark Pocan, Senator Tammy Baldwin and Senator Ron Johnson during their visit.

Other topics at the meetings included highlighting the proactive measures Stoughton Utilities implements to protect data and assets and ensuring that any policy addressing physical and cyber security of the electric grid is not a one size fits all solution that may make sense for a multi-billion dollar utility, but be cost prohibitive and unnecessary for a smaller utility. Stoughton attendees also requested that any potential federal infrastructure bill include funding for critical energy infrastructure such as high speed transmission lines and a smarter electric grid.



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