



News Release

Stoughton Utilities

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Local Leaders Advocate for Public Power in Washington, D.C.

Stoughton Utilities Assistant Director Brian Hoops advocated on behalf of Stoughton Utilities and the over 2,000 public power communities across the U.S. at the American Public Power Association's (APPA) 2019 Legislative Rally. They joined representatives from other WPPI Energy member communities in Washington, D.C. February 25 through February 27, where they conducted in-person meetings with members of Congress.

"The legislative rally is an opportunity for public power representatives to come together as a strong, united group to speak with legislators about important energy policy that has the potential to affect the utility, community and public power as a whole," said Brian Hoops, Assistant Director. "We support policy aimed at keeping utility costs stable and maintaining local control."

The group met with Wisconsin Senators Tammy Baldwin (D) and Ron Johnson (R), as well as Representative Mark Pocan from Wisconsin's second congressional district. During these meetings, they thanked the legislators for maintaining the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds throughout the tax reform process, and encouraged them to support municipal bond-related policy recommendations that will save public power customers money on electric and water infrastructure projects.

They also encouraged legislators to oppose legislative proposals that would expand the federal government's role in decisions about how Stoughton Utilities manages its day-to-day operations.

“The APPA Rally allowed for the unique opportunity to meet face-to-face with the legislators representing our community,” said Brian Hoops, Assistant Director. “Policy decisions made in D.C. absolutely affect the customers of Stoughton, and it is important that we continue to strengthen relationships with our representatives.”

“It’s important for local leaders to meet with their legislators to share their perspectives on energy policy and its effects on public power communities,” said Joseph Owen, Manager of Government Relations for WPPI Energy. “Even thoughtful and well-intentioned legislative proposals can have unintended consequences, and the Wisconsin Congressional delegation is always receptive to hearing about those concerns.”

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