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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
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Subject: House panel approves bipartisan update to Safe Drinking Water Act

By Annie Snider

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A House measure to update the Safe Drinking Water Act is gaining bipartisan momentum after lawmakers approved a slate of amendments during subcommittee markup this morning.

Among the changes made to the Drinking Water System Improvement Act by the House Energy and Commerce Committee's environment subpanel is a boost to the popular Drinking Water State Revolving Fund's authorization, allowing \$8 billion in spending over five years. Also approved were amendments supported by Democrats to require states to spend a minimum share of federal dollars on disadvantaged communities, encourage removal of lead service lines and require projects supported with federal funds to use American-made iron and steel.

Rep. Paul Tonko (D-N.Y.), the top Democrat on the subcommittee, said the measure that will now go to the full committee was a compromise after his party pushed for major increases in federal funding and changes to the process EPA must follow in order to set new drinking water standards.

"This bill reflects compromise. It is not the bill Democrats would have written on our own," Tonko said. "We have met halfway to get this bill on the path to being able to be supported by every or nearly every member of this committee."

WHAT'S NEXT: The measure heads to the full House Energy and Commerce Committee for consideration.

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