

## News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)

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### **Spratt Announces Grant to Cherokee County**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that Cherokee County has won a \$250,000 grant for the Wilkesville Water project.

“This grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) will go toward extending public water service to 87 households and 251 residents in the Wilkesville neighborhood, which is suffering from the effects of dried up and contaminated wells,” Spratt said.

The project will eliminate a health and safety threat to the 302 residents of Wilkesville, of which 83 percent are classified as low-and moderate-income (LMI) persons.

The project involves construction of approximately 7.5 miles of 6-inch gravity water lines, 3.3 miles of 4-inch water line, 2.7 miles of 3-inch water line, 3 ties to existing lines, and 87 service connections to low-to-moderate income households. Tap fees will be waived for LMI households.

According to ARC, 251 of the residents meet LMI standards and cannot afford to make the needed sewer improvements. Moreover, so much of the water in the neighborhood is contaminated that new wells would not alleviate the health and safety hazard present in the area.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, through the state's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, will serve as the basic federal agency for the project. In addition to ARC funds, state CDBG resources will provide \$250,000 and local commitments include \$50,000. The total cost of the Wilkesville Water project is \$550,000.

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