THE FUTURE OF PENNSYLVANIA’S WATER IS AT STAKE IN 2012 ELECTIONS

By Myron Arnowitt, Pennsylvania Director

Over the past two years Governor Tom Corbett and the anti-environment, pro-gas industry legislature have dramatically increased the favors and handouts for those who profit from gas drilling in our state. Passage of Act 13 earlier this year opened up gas drilling and pipelines to virtually anywhere in the state. Act 13 took local zoning control away from townships where it was being used to keep drilling out of neighborhoods and away from schools.

At the same time, our elected representatives have made unacceptable cuts to the budget for the Department of Environmental Protection, while giving billion dollar tax breaks to billion dollar companies like Shell. If the current leadership in Harrisburg is allowed to continue its agenda, even more damage will be done to Pennsylvania’s natural resources and our water supplies will put at greater risk than any time in recent history. It’s time to put a stop to this — with your votes on November 6th.

KEY RACES: Clean Water Action Needs Your Support Now

The 2012 election is your chance to ensure that lawmakers’ utter disregard for Pennsylvania’s environment does not continue. Clean Water Action has endorsed a slate of pro-environment candidates who will fight to turn things around in Harrisburg and in Washington D.C.

In Bucks County, Kathy Boockvar is running in the U.S. House 8th Congressional District to unseat incumbent Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick. Boockvar has taken strong positions on the problems with fracking. Rep. Fitzpatrick often claims to be ‘moderate’ on the environment, but only scored 25% in Clean Water Action’s latest Congressional Scorecard, and he even voted to block new restrictions on toxic mercury pollution.

Several of Clean Water Action’s endorsed candidates are challenging incumbent state legislators who have voted to take local control over gas drilling away from townships, while handing out tax breaks to...
oil companies and cutting state environmental protection budgets. In Chester County both Bret Binder (156th District) and Paul Drucker (157th District) are making strong challenges and Clean Water Action need every voter to support them. In Allegheny County, Dave Levdansky is seeking to take back his seat in the 39th District.

Clean Water Action is also working to ensure that some of Pennsylvania’s strongest environmental champions are re-elected to the State House. Rep. Steve Santarsiero in Bucks County’s 31st District has had one of the best pro-environment records over the past four years in office. Clean Water Action also strongly urges support for Eugene DePasquale for state Auditor General. DePasquale scored 100% on Clean Water Action’s state environmental scorecard this year, and has pledged to provide independent oversight of the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Please remember to support all these candidates on November 6!
ARE YOU A CLEAN WATER VOTER?

The environmental stakes have never been higher than in this year's elections. The next President and Congress — and the leaders who are elected at the state and local levels this fall — can do much to restore the nation's commitment to clean air and water and healthy communities. The right leadership can make sure the United States is positioned to reap the full economic and job creation benefits that will come from smart investment in a clean energy and clean water future.

The past two years brought more attacks on fundamental protections than ever before. The U.S. House led the way — backwards — voting more than three hundred times to dismantle the Clean Water Act, weaken clean air protections, strip funding from environmental protection programs, effectively dismantle the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and more. Without the U.S. Senate and veto threats from President Obama to stop these bills from becoming law, the results would have been disastrous.

Too many officials have been carrying the polluters' agenda and turning their backs on the people they were elected to represent — perhaps thinking they could get away with it. Clean Water Action members like you can make sure that does not happen. You can help hold our elected officials accountable for their actions with your votes this November 6.

This special issue of Clean Water Currents provides information on Clean Water Action's nonpartisan candidate endorsements for 2012. All endorsements are based on a careful review of the candidates' records and positions, their responses to questionnaires on key issues, and, in many cases, in-person interviews and recommendations from local and national staff, allies and volunteers.

Throughout the 2012 campaign season, Clean Water Action:

- Educates its members about critical issues.
- Provides information on candidates and ballot initiatives before voters.
- Spotlights the records and positions of endorsed candidates, with special attention to environmental “heroes” deserving re-election and environmental “zeroes” whose anti-environment records are unacceptably poor.
- Mobilizes Clean Water Action voters to make sure they vote for Clean Water Action's endorsed candidates on election day.

Clean Water Action's 2011-12 scorecard (see p. 4) provides additional detail on U.S. House and Senate voting records for those states where Clean Water Action has the largest numbers of members.

**Be a Clean Water Voter:**

- **LEARN** about the candidates' records and positions, Clean Water Action's endorsements and any ballot measures before voters this fall.
- **REGISTER** and **VOTE** for the candidates and positions endorsed by Clean Water Action.
- **DONATE** to help Clean Water Action reach and turn out more pro-environment voters to support endorsed candidates and hold others accountable. Donate online at [www.CleanWater.org/donate](http://www.CleanWater.org/donate)
- **VOLUNTEER** by joining with Clean Water Action staff in your state to make phone calls, distribute literature, and mobilize voters in the days leading up to election day. Contact the office nearest you to volunteer.

**PRESIDENTIAL ENDORSEMENT:**

This April, Clean Water Action joined with other national environmental groups in an unprecedented early endorsement of **PRESIDENT OBAMA**'s re-election. President Obama's record in his first term has been stronger than any other in decades, and his leadership has been essential in stopping the train wreck of anti-environmental bills moving through Congress. The Romney-Ryan ticket would be an environmental disaster, if elected. Rep. Ryan led the attack on the Clean Water Act and other water and health protections in Congress, and Gov. Romney has committed to an agenda of weakening environmental laws and extending special treatment and expanding government subsidies for the nation's worst polluters.

The stakes are equally high in contests for U.S. Senate, U.S. House, and in many races for state legislature, governor’s races and more local offices.
How Did Your Representatives and Senators Vote?

Clean Water Action has spent much of the past two years defending against an all-out assault in Congress. Fundamental environmental and health protections — highly successful laws such as the Clean Water Act — are under attack. How serious is this situation? So far the U.S. House has considered — and actually voted to pass — more than 300 measures that would weaken clean water, clean air and health protection.

Fortunately, the worst of these were turned back in the Senate, with the help of veto threats by President Obama. To help Clean Water Action members and others understand what has been going on, the organization tracks key votes and compiles scorecards. This latest scorecard covers votes from 2011-12. Members of Congress who have sided with the polluters and against protecting water and health must be held accountable. This November’s elections provide some excellent opportunities for doing so.

In a state like Pennsylvania where environmental issues are so important to voters, it is disappointing to see so little leadership from Pennsylvania’s Congressional delegation. Those few high-scorers (5 of 21 Representatives and Senators) really stand out as champions.

**SCORECARD:** Clean Water Action tallied twelve U.S. House and eight U.S. Senate votes for each Representative and Senator. To earn a perfect “100”, a U.S. Representative would need to have voted “No” on all but one of the scored anti-environment measures and “Yes” on the one clean water proposal in the scorecard; in the Senate two “Yes” votes and six “No’s” were required. As summarized here, one of the two positive Senate votes passed, and the other failed narrowly. An asterisk denotes that the representative did not vote on all bills.

*Detailed breakdowns of Senators’ and Representatives’ votes are available at* [www.cleanwater.org/scorecard](http://www.cleanwater.org/scorecard)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PENNSYLVANIA REPRESENTATIVES</th>
<th>% PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1   Brady (D)</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2   Fattah (D)</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3   Kelley (R)</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4   Altmire (D)</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5   Thompson (R)</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6   Gerlach (R)</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>7   Meehan (R)</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>8   Fitzpatrick (R)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>9   Shuster (R)*</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>10  Marino (R)</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>11  Barletta (R)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12  Critz (D)</td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>13  Schwartz (D)</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14  Doyle (D)</td>
<td>83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>15  Dent (R)</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>16  Pitts (R)</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17  Holden (D)*</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18  Murphy (R)</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19  Platts (R)</td>
<td>17%</td>
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</tbody>
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**SENATORS:**

- Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D) 88%
- Pat Toomey (R) 0%
KEY U.S. HOUSE VOTES IN THE FIGHT TO PROTECT WATER AND HEALTH

Federal Budget for 2011 (H.R. 1): The final House budget (continuing appropriations bill, FY2011) included devastating cuts to programs that protect clean water and clean air, plus numerous amendments (“riders”) that would roll back protections even further. [February 19, 2011; passed 235-189]

Dirty Water Act (H.R. 2018, Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act): This direct attack on the Clean Water Act would effectively gut the current law by undermining the federal government’s responsibility for keeping water safe for drinking, fishing and swimming. [July 13, 2011; passed 239-184]

Clean Water Protections (Moran amendment 1175): This pro-environment amendment championed by Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) would strike provisions from H.R. 5325 (Energy & Water Appropriations, FY2013) aimed at blocking federal agencies from restoring Clean Water Act protections for wetlands, streams and critical water resources. [June 1, 2012; defeated 152-237]

Greenhouse Gas Pollution (H.R. 910, Energy and Tax Prevention Act): Would permanently block Clean Air Act controls on greenhouse gases and would “repeal” EPA’s science-based finding that this pollution endangers public health and the environment. [April 7, 2011; passed 255-172]

Attack on Clean Air (H.R. 2401, Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation or TRAIN Act): Would delay EPA rules on mercury and other toxic emissions along with other smog-causing power plant pollution. Would tie up new Clean Air Act standards with unneeded studies in which only costs, but not benefits, could be considered. [September 23, 2011; passed 249-169]

Cement Plant Pollution (H.R. 2681, Cement Sector Regulatory Relief Act): Would nullify EPA toxics reduction rules for cement kilns, a major source of mercury contamination in water. [October 6, 2011; passed 262-161]

Attack on Public Safeguards (H.R. 10, Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny or REINS Act): Intended to prevent adoption of any new public safeguards by requiring a Congressional approval within 70 legislative days of Administrative action. New or proposed rules on air and water quality, food, workplace and consumer product safety would all be stopped, placing Americans’ health and safety at risk. [December 7, 2011; passed 241-184]

Blocking Environmental & Health Protections (H.R. 3010, Regulatory Accountability Act): Would create significant new hurdles for public health and environmental protection regulations by requiring agencies to choose “least costly” rather than “most protective” standards. [December 2, 2011; passed 253-167]

Coal Ash Pollution (H.R. 2273, Coal Residuals Remove and Management Act): Would bar EPA from regulating coal ash laden with arsenic, lead and other toxic heavy metals as a hazardous waste. Would not even require minimum state standards to protect communities from coal ash spill disasters. [October 14, 2011; passed 267-144]

Coal Ash Pollution (H.R. 4348): This “motion to instruct” procedural vote required House conference committee members to include H.R. 2273 (above) in the final, must-pass Transportation Bill package. [June 21, 2012; passed 260-138]

Toxic Air Pollution (H.R. 2250, EPA Regulatory Relief Act): Would indefinitely delay air pollution standards for industrial boilers and incinerators, which emit neurotoxic mercury, cancer-causing dioxins and other toxic air pollution. [October 13, 2011; passed 275-142]

Regulatory Shutdown (H.R. 4078, Red Tape Reduction & Small Business Job Creation Act): Would freeze any “significant regulatory action” by federal agencies until the unemployment rate is at or below 6%, preventing action on essential environmental and health protections and associated economic benefits. [July 26, 2012; passed 245-172]

KEY U.S. SENATE VOTES IN THE FIGHT TO PROTECT WATER AND HEALTH

Federal Budget for 2011 (H.R. 1): The final House budget (continuing appropriations bill, FY2011) included devastating cuts to programs that protect clean water and clean air, plus numerous amendments (“riders”) that would roll back protections even further. [March 9, 2011; defeated 56-44]

Greenhouse Gas Pollution (Amendment No.183 on S. 493): Amendment by Minority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) to “repeal” EPA’s science-based finding that greenhouse gas pollution endangers public health and the environment. Bill would permanently block Clean Air Act controls on pollution and weaken fuel economy standards. [April 6, 2011; defeated 50-50]

Attack on Clean Air (Senate Joint Resolution 27): Resolution by Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) would void EPA’s July 2011 Cross-State Pollution rule, blocking requirements that power plants reduce air pollution that travels across state lines. [November 11, 2011; defeated 56-41]

Attack on Clean Air Protections (Senate Joint Resolution 37): Resolution by Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) would overturn EPA’s Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, which require reductions in heavy metals and toxics from fossil-fuel burning power plants. [June 20, 2012; defeated 53-46]

Factory Farm Pollution (Johanns Amendment No. 2372): Would effectively block Clean Water Act enforcement against factory farms by prohibiting EPA from using aircraft to inspect industrial livestock operations for animal waste pollution violations. [June 21, 2012; defeated 56-43]

Gulf Coast Restoration and Land & Water Conservation Funding (Nelson Amendment No. 1822): Would provide funding for natural resource restoration in Gulf Coast states and for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. [March 8, 2012; passed 76-22]

Big Oil Tax Subsidies (S. 2204, Repeal Big Oil Tax Subsidies Act): Would eliminate taxpayer handouts for this industry, which is reaping record profits; would instead promote renewable energy and energy conservation. [March 29, 2012; defeated 51-47]

Keystone XL Pipeline (Hoeven Amendment No. 1537): Would fast-track approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline project, bypassing required environmental and siting reviews. [March 8, 2012; defeated 56-42]
Clean Water Action is a national citizens’ organization working for clean, safe and affordable water, prevention of health-threatening pollution, creation of environmentally-safe jobs and businesses, and empowerment of people to make democracy work. Clean Water Action organizes strong grassroots groups, coalitions and campaigns to protect our environment, health, economic well-being and community quality of life.

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