Please take these simple actions to assure protection for all America’s streams, lakes, beaches and wetlands.

Sign and return the statement of support endorsing the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act (S 912 & HR 1356). If your U.S. Representative and Senators are not yet cosponsors of this important legislation, your endorsement will help convince them to take a stand. If they are already co-sponsors, your support will encourage them to push for the Act’s passage and to take the right position on other key votes in the months ahead. (SEE PAGE 14) Visit www.CleanWaterAction.org for the latest co-sponsor information and for additional actions you can take this fall.

Vote for clean water, when you vote this November 7. Are your U.S. Senators or Representative cosponsoring the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act? Did your U.S. Representative vote for or against the Administration’s “No Protection” policy this May? Have the candidates on your ballot had their records and positions reviewed by Clean Water Action or other nonpartisan environmental groups; if so, how did they fare, and did they earn endorsements or other support from environmentalists? (SEE PAGE 10, or visit www.CleanWaterAction.org for more information).

Make a donation to support Clean Water Action’s Protect America’s Waters campaign. Today, when polluters and developers have so much influence in Washington, DC and state legislatures, Clean Water Action’s role is more important than ever. You can count on us to be your eyes and ears. We help you to speak out for clean, safe water. Your contribution makes it possible. (SEE PAGE 15)

CLEAN WATER ACTION NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOU

While you’re taking action for clean, safe water, please be sure to vote for Clean Water Action’s next Board of Directors and weigh in on the organization’s issue priorities for the coming year. (SEE PAGES 13–14).

EDITOR’S NOTE: An astute Michigan reader spotted our recent error in labeling the Bush Administration’s destructive “No Protection” policy as a “bureaucratic slight-of-hand.” The grammatically correct language, “sleight-of-hand” appears in this issue’s update, p. 3.

Remembering Mechtild Jordan  Mechtild Jordan, a dedicated long-time member of Clean Water Action’s phone canvass team, passed away suddenly this September. In her 22 years of service with Clean Water Action, “Mrs. Jordan,” as she was known to many of those she spoke with by phone, maintained personal contact with thousands of Clean Water Action members. She raised nearly one million dollars to support Clean Water Action’s campaigns for clean, safe and affordable water. And she helped Clean Water Action members keep informed and active on critical environmental issues affecting Florida (where she hoped to retire one day), her beloved Chesapeake Bay and the surrounding region, and other states.

It was her concern for the Bay which first brought her to Clean Water Action in 1984 as a part-time campaigner, 4 evenings per week, while continuing her full time duties teaching first grade to District of Columbia students. Mechtild is remembered for her passionate commitment, her positive outlook, and the extraordinary and inspiring impact she has had on Clean Water Action’s staff (many of whom she helped train over the years), members, volunteers, and the issues about which she cared so deeply. She believed in people’s ability to make a difference, and demonstrated those beliefs every day in her career with Clean Water Action.
Drinking Water Sources, Wetlands in Jeopardy
Administration pursues formal “no protection” policy

Does the Clean Water Act protect all of the waters of the United States? Or does it just protect some of them?

What about the wetlands which absorb flood waters and buffer against drought?

What about the sensitive natural habitats — breeding and nursery grounds and hatcheries for fish and birds — on which hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of jobs and entire local economies tied to outdoor recreation, the seafood industry, hunting, fishing, birdwatching and tourism all depend?

What about the forested watersheds or open spaces which determine the quantity and quality of your drinking water?

Are the waters you care about protected under the law? If polluters and their allies in Congress and the Bush Administration have their way, the answer should be something like, “That depends on what your definition of ‘waters of the United States’ is.”

In fact, the Administration is now poised to issue a new polluter-friendly policy “guidance.” It would direct federal agencies to stop protecting critical water resources, including many headwater areas whose destruction would bring more pollution, more flooding, more drought and compromised drinking water quality.

Moreover, the guidance would — without any public debate or any vote in Congress — fundamentally alter the Clean Water Act, which has been the law of the land since its 1972 passage. “Waters of the United States,” which is the language deliberately written into the law by Congress, would now mean “some of the waters of the United States.”

Administration officials claim that their disingenuous re-definition of the law is simply a response to recent decisions by the Supreme Court and in other federal and state judicial arenas. But, “This is what polluters have been after all along,” says Clean Water Action’s Paul Schwartz, “and the White House is simply taking advantage of legal confusion.”

“That legal confusion is the direct result of a deliberate strategy, pursued relentlessly by some of the nation’s largest polluters and developers for years,” Schwartz says. “It is now bearing fruit on this Administration’s watch.”

Water Quality Is Declining
While the current legal and political climate may be an opportune one for polluters and their lobbyists, the scene is grim indeed for people who care about clean, safe and affordable water. According to federal agencies’ own information, the Clean Water Act’s goal of fishable, swimable and drinkable waters has stalled and in some cases begun to unravel.

More than three decades’ cleanup progress has slowed. Enforcement by federal and state agencies against the nation’s largest water polluters has faltered, with frequent violations and few crackdowns on environmental lawbreakers. Meanwhile, in too many waterways around the country which have seen earlier improvements under the Clean Water Act, water quality has now begun to decline.

Your Involvement Makes a Difference
Not all the news is bad. Since late 2003, when the Bush Administration first made clear its intent to end Clean Water Act protections for many water bodies, Clean Water Action — including members like you — has been fighting to keep the law strong. Facing a firestorm of public opposition, including letters, calls and e-mails from Clean Water Action members around the country, the Administration withdrew its formal proposal to shrink the Clean Water Act. That regulatory maneuver appeared to step away from the notion of stripping federal protections from thousands of miles of streams, thousands of lakes and millions of wetlands acres.

But Clean Water Action and the recreational, sporting and conservation groups who, together, played a role in forcing that retreat, soon learned that the public about-face was to be accompanied by a low profile continuation of the same bad policy. A bureaucratic sleight-of-hand allowed the White House to appear publicly responsive to conservationists’ concerns while the Administration was encouraging agency staff to put protection for more than half the nation’s waters on the back burner.

Clean Water Action and allies began recruiting cosponsors for the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act (CWARA), whose passage would help end the Administration’s “No Protection” policy. This year, as assaults on clean water protections seemed to be coming to a head — with court challenges, regulatory wrangling, debilitating budget cuts, and ever more feeble enforcement — Clean Water Action joined with other environmental groups in a national campaign to Protect All of America’s Waters.

Holding Congress and the White House Accountable
Thousands of Clean Water Action members have responded. More than 4,000 sent letters urging their US Senators and Representative to cosponsor CWARA and end the Administration’s “No Protection” policy. This May, on a symbolic but strategically important test in the US House, a majority of Representatives, 222-198, voted for a federal budget amendment to prohibit a continuation of the “No Protection” policy. With momentum building through the summer, there are now 168 CWARA cosponsors...
Has the tide turned? It is still too early to tell. Clearly, “It’s time for Congress to address the issue of Clean Water Act protections,” said David Zwick, Clean Water Action’s President. “Americans want all, not just some of their waters protected for fishing, swimming, drinking and other uses. The alternative is continued legal wrangling, more assaults by big polluters and developers, and inconsistent and narrower protection for our drinking water sources.”

“We expect that the willingness of Congress, and of candidates for election or reelection to the U.S. House and Senate to take action and go on record in support of CWARA and other needed measures could be a significant factor in Clean Water Action members’ voting decisions this November,” Zwick adds, noting the organization’s commitment to educating its members on candidates’ records and positions in the weeks ahead.

S
kyrocketing gasoline prices. Extended heat and drought over much of the United States. Record-breaking profits for the world’s largest energy companies.

As never before, Americans are confronted daily with first-hand evidence of a failed national energy strategy. There’s no question. People understand the dangers of over-reliance on petroleum imports and the larger danger of America’s growing addiction to oil. Even if Detroit automakers and federal lawmakers still don’t get it, more efficient vehicles may be the wave of the future. But the future is now. Equally obvious and pressing are the needs for switches to clean fuels for electricity and transportation.

This summer marked the first year since passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. That was Congress’ and the White House’s staggering giveaway — billions of dollars in tax breaks and other benefits — for Big Oil and Coal. The measure did relatively little to advance fuel efficiency or clean, renewable energy technologies. On the Act’s official anniversary, August 8, the national average gas price topped $3 per gallon. The day before, gas giant BP’s shutdown of its corroded and leaking Alaskan pipeline removed 8 percent of daily U.S. crude oil production and sent oil prices spiking to a near-record $76 per barrel.

“August 8 was a milestone for energy policy all right,” said Clean Water Action’s Lynn Thorp, “but not in the way the Energy Policy Act’s sponsors intended. It reminded us once again that America has no time to waste in making major commitment to efficiency and renewable sources in the power sector and to cleaner transportation solutions. These steps will reduce dependence on foreign oil, be economically smart in the long run and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming.”

“Everyone deserves a safe, clean and affordable energy future,” said Thorp. “The next Congress and the states can do much more in 2007 to promote a sustainable energy future that benefits consumers, the economy and the environment.”

**Clean Water Authority Restoration Act**

(CWARA, S 912 and HR 1356)

This legislation, with strong and growing bipartisan support, would prevent the Courts and this or future Administrations from misinterpreting Congress’ intent, when federal lawmakers voted Clean Water Act protections into effect for all of the nation’s waters. CWARA’s passage would benefit America’s waters by:

- Setting a national floor of protection for all waters of the nation, as envisioned by Congress in 1972.
- Overturning the “No Protection” policy advanced by the Bush Administration since 2003, which has placed half the nation’s waters at risk, including 20 million wetlands acres and drinking water sources for 110 million Americans.
- Blocking the Administration’s impending new “guidance” that would further limit Clean Water Act enforcement for critically important headwaters and other “upstream” water resources, and forcing the White House to adopt a more enlightened approach that returns to compliance with existing, well-established law.
- Setting the nation back on course for renewing and reinvigorating its 34-year-old commitment to clean, safe and affordable water and the Clean Water Act’s goals of fishable, swimmable, drinkable waters.

While CWARA’s passage could have an immediate positive impact, “The Clean Water Act still needs substantial strengthening,” cautions Clean Water Action’s Paul Schwartz. “Congress and the states will need to undo damage from years of devastating budget cuts that have crippled clean water enforcement efforts and delayed overdue investments in repairs and upgrades to aged and failing drinking water and pollution control systems.” For more on strengthening the Clean Water Act see www.CleanWaterAction.org/WaterPlatform.
What would you want public officials to know as they consider changes that could either weaken or strengthen water protections? Clean Water Action’s Protect America’s Waters campaign invites people to take action by writing letters, signing a support statement, and commenting on why these issues are important.

The below excerpts represent only a few of the hundreds of heartfelt, articulate, and powerful responses received from Clean Water Action members around the country. One thing is clear: when Clean Water Action members feel as passionately about an issue as you do about this one, your communications are more effective at making the case than any environmental lawyer, lobbyist or policy expert ever will be.

“Water, clean, safe water, is essential to the maintenance of a healthy nation. We give away our future, the right of our children’s future if we do not keep our waters clean. This is an issue upon which I will vote.”

Phyllis Goodman, Michigan

“Thirty years of progress cleaning and protecting all our water resources must not be destroyed by powerful special interests and multi-national corporations. The job of our leaders in Congress and the White House is to protect the water resources of the United States for the people of the United States.”

Mrs. Ronnie Rosenthal, New Jersey

“What good will millions in profits do for any polluter when they get thirsty, and discover there is no safe water? Enforce the Clean Water Act over all of our waters, please!”

John Dillery, Minnesota

“Clean water is essential to all life on this planet. As stewards of the earth, we have an obligation to protect this precious resource for all living things. Short-term economic gain for a few can have devastating long-term consequences for many!”

Gail Craven, Michigan

“The fact that 40% of America’s waters are still polluted is not acceptable! Instead of bending the current rules by "blending", slashing funding for enforcement, letting polluters continue to go unpunished year after year–we need stronger laws enforced.

Doris Hammaker, Maryland

“We need to take better care of our environment. We are already polluting and poisoning ourselves. I fear for the lives of our children and their children.”

Nancy Knight, New Jersey
In the Dark with Gators and Crocs

And how was it weakened? By smudging the location, measurement and reporting of data related to Big Sugar’s phosphorous pollution.

Special interests may count on the public being on the same side as alligators and crocodiles — that is to say, in the dark. But in Florida, nothing so overt as chasing down environmentalists by law enforcement, goaded by government agencies, needs to happen for alarm bells to ring.

There is devil enough in the details: how political pressure shivers straight through the government agencies charged with protecting the public health and environment.

This is the point of the recent Clean Water Fund report, Are We Still Wading in Waste? It found that the state warning-point database for sewage spills is incomplete, lacks standardized formatting and is practically impossible for a citizen to make sense of. Well, OK. It’s just numbers, right?

In Brevard County, “Titusville/Osprey Plant reported a spill of 35,000 to 3.5 million gallons of sewage into the Indian River.”

In Pasco County, Zephyrhills, widely known for bottled water more expensive than gasoline, had a 21 million-gallon wastewater release that “drained into a nearby lake.”

Like most lakes in Florida, surface water seeps into ground water.

Ground water is what we drink from, bathe in, and even where we swim when it returns to springs and surface waters.

My memory flickered back to a 2003 Sierra Club report on Floridas bungled public disclosures of its other ticking effluent time bomb: the underground disposal of scarcely treated municipal waste through injection “control” wells.

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Special interests don’t have to call the FBI on environmentalists. So far they’ve gotten their way with a passive and compliant Legislature and a chief executive who is on their side more often than not.

This August, the Associated Press reported an outbreak of swimmer rashes in Florida’s most revered freshwater springs. A state spokesperson said it’s “just irresponsible” to conclude that toxic algae is the cause.

Let me tell you about irresponsible.

In 2003 and 2004 two state legislators, Sen. Dan Gelber and then Rep. Tony Hill, proposed legislation that simply would have required the state to disclose information to the public in a clear and understandable form on the extent of aquifer manipulation in the state of Florida.

The state’s leading environmental agency objected, and the bill never made it out of committee.

Clean Water Fund and Sierra Club have both documented the lack of standardized information, information gaps and plain errors in the public notices that are required by EPA’s federal regulations.

Of the recent complaints of bathers in Florida’s springs, state health department spokesman Fernando Senra said, “There are so many variables that could contribute to a rash.”

But what if it was a cancer cluster and not a rash? What if the response was just a shrug?

Indifference is a killer even more lethal than the power and influence of special interests. No one should be surprised by the results.

Alan Farago of Coral Gables, is a long-time Clean Water Action member and Sierra Club leader in South Florida and writes on environment and politics. A version of article originally appeared in the Orlando Sentinel.
California  Mercury pollution in the San Francisco Bay ecosystem moved one step closer to cleanup progress this August when a regional Water Board revised cleanup plans that had earlier been rejected as inadequate by state officials. Clean Water Action and environmental justice activists had pushed to close serious loopholes in the initial cleanup plan. While there are still problems with the plan’s provisions for holding individual polluters to their pollution limits, sections intended to limit health risks for people who rely on mercury-contaminated fish from the Bay for subsistence are a marked improvement.

Colorado  Clean Water Action has been mobilizing its members to build support among members of the state’s Congressional delegation for passage of the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act (see p. 3). Headwater streams which provide much of Colorado’s drinking water are among the waters most at risk from the Bush Administration’s “No Protection” policy. At press time, U.S. Reps. Diana DeGette and Mark Udall were the first from the state to co-sponsor the bill, HR 1356.

Connecticut  A newly formed Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut has been launched by Clean Water Fund, Clean Water Action and allies. The groups seek to prevent health harm from toxic hazards and will campaign for significant state chemical policy reforms in 2007… The statewide Climate Coalition coordinated by Clean Water Action organized dozens of showings this summer of Al Gore’s An Inconvenient Truth. The events encouraged moviegoers to press for stronger local and state leadership and action on climate change problems… Energy bill amendments that would have opened the door to siting for new coal-fired power plants in the state were defeated with Clean Water Action’s assistance, in the final days of the 2006 legislative session.

Delaware  Citizens’ dogged grassroots campaigning has given Delaware some of the world’s strongest controls on garbage incineration, effectively precluding construction of the polluting burners anywhere in the state. These laws, aimed at heading off the millions of pounds of health-damaging toxic air pollutants that such a facility would bring, faced a serious test during 2006. State lawmakers debated a plan to exempt southern Delaware from existing prohibitions against siting a trash burner within three miles of any residential area. With Clean Water Action’s help, the attempt to weaken these critical health protections failed.

District of Columbia  Clean Water Action helped to release the 2006 Environmental Agenda to coincide with a summer candidates’ forum in this important election year. The document outlines environmental and health protection priorities and challenges candidates to support them and make their positions known to voters.

Florida  Florida’s Everglades are well known as a national natural resource treasure. This fragile ecosystem is bordered by some of the nation’s fastest-growing urban areas. To protect against poorly planned development which could imperil the already-endangered natural area, Clean Water Action brought together more than 130 conservation, civic and housing organizations and county municipalities who were united in their Hold the Line campaign to stop expansions of Miami-Dade County’s Urban Development Boundary. The UDB is designed to protect natural resources and local water supplies from poorly planned or inappropriate development. Ultimately, well-organized public opposition overcame developers’ push to expand the boundary line this year. The Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners voted by a slim margin not to move ahead with UDB expansions plans… In Palm Beach County, local limestone mining for road and highway construction has been fueling local development and threatening underground water supplies. Clean Water Action and allies have persuaded local officials to prohibit any further mining within the 800,000-acre Everglades Agricultural Area, which is currently used largely for sugar cultivation, until a comprehensive study on groundwater impacts can be completed.

Maryland  With leadership from Clean Water Action, the Healthy Air Coalition won landmark power plant cleanup legislation this year to reduce harmful emissions of nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon dioxide and mercury. The law is one of the nation’s strongest… Clean Water Action is organizing local action in Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties, together with statewide action to reduce stormwater pollution. Runoff from poorly-designed urban and suburban areas and new development is damaging the Chesapeake Bay and local waterways.

Massachusetts  Clean Water Action and the Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow scored a major victory this July 28 when Gov. Mitt Romney signed into law legislation to curb mercury pollution in the state. The landmark bill phases out mercury-containing products for which there are alternatives, such as thermostats, electric switches, and blood pressure cuffs. The bill also requires manufacturers of many mercury-containing products to finance and set up collection programs to keep discarded products out of the waste stream, and requires manufacturers of cars and mercury-containing light bulbs to pay for recycling programs or achieve aggressive “capture rates” for keeping mercury-laden switches and bulbs out of the environment. This win puts Massachusetts among the forefront of a growing number of states taking action to reduce toxic emissions.

Now You Can BID AND BENEFIT

Clean Water Programs in Florida

2006 Holiday Auction:  A South Florida small business, PDQ Internet Auctions, has selected Clean Water Fund to benefit from its charity auctions on eBay. Donations of high-value sports equipment, cars, boats and motorcycles, antiques and collectibles, and musical instruments are now being accepted. Please contact Clean Water Fund’s Carrie Berger, 561-417-9995 or visit www.CleanWaterFund.org for details and auction updates.

continued on page 8

Clean Water Action News
and environmental health harm resulting from use and disposal of mercury-containing products.

**MICHIGAN** The state’s first-ever water withdrawal controls, signed into law in February, contain provisions sought by Clean Water Action that require major water users to comply with conservation standards and prevent environmental damage from proposed new major uses. Clean Water Action will now seek to close a loophole in the law that exempts packaged water in containers less than 5.7 gallons from a ban on water exports. Such a loophole could undermine the state’s policy of preventing Great Lakes water exports with the potential for damaging the source of nearly one-fifth of the world’s surface fresh water... Clean Water Action is also organizing in support of a “green chemistry” initiative by Governor Jennifer Granholm. The proposal would enlist state government support for the first time for policies and projects that promote the development of safer alternatives to products and production processes that have caused toxic pollution problems in the state.

**MINNESOTA** Years of work by the Clean Water Action Alliance (Clean Water Action’s state chapter) and allies paid off in the 2006 legislative session with approval of nearly $25 million in startup funding for the Clean Water Legacy initiative. The Legacy, a long-standing Alliance priority, seeks cleanup for thousands of polluted lakes and rivers. If fully funded, it would provide up to $80 million annually for water cleanup... The Alliance and the Mercury-Free Minnesota campaign persuaded state lawmakers to require 90 percent reductions in mercury emissions by the state’s largest coal-fired power plants by the year 2015... The Alliance is also building support for the Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act of 2006, S 2545 and HR 5100, winning co-sponsorship from both of the state’s U.S. Senators and several U.S. Reps. (see photo above right and Reports sidebar p.9).

**NEW JERSEY** Seven counties have now posted parks with “pesticide free zone” signs as a result of organizing by the New Jersey Environmental Federation, Clean Water Action’s Garden State chapter. New Jersey uses about three million pounds of pesticides annually for lawn care, mosquito control and golf course maintenance. The “pesticide free zones” will protect children using the parks from exposure to health-threatening chemicals and also reduce pesticide risks to drinking water supplies... The Environmental Federation, Clean Water Fund and other citizen groups in the state have taken on the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission to make the case for closing the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station rather than extend its license through the year 2029. Oyster Creek, the nation’s oldest atomic plant with the worst safety record, already suffers a rusting containment system, and the unique configuration of its waste storage — a pool that is 70 feet in the air — makes it highly vulnerable as a potential terrorist target.

**NORTH DAKOTA** Community-owned and farmer-owned wind projects have the potential for reviving the state’s rural economy and growing the nation’s renewable energy supplies. Clean Water Action has teamed up with farm organizations, is developing pro-wind policies with state lawmakers, and is working with financiers and small wind development companies. Clean Water Action staff have been meeting with city officials in Fargo to help ensure that municipal-owned renewable energy projects that are being developed will deliver real environmental benefits.

**PENNSYLVANIA** Pennsylvania is #2 in the nation for mercury emissions, yet weak federal rules adopted by the Bush Administration last year would delay cleanups at the state’s coal burning power plants another twenty or more years — putting another generation of children at risk. Clean Water Action supports Gov. Rendell’s plan to reduce these smokestack mercury emissions 90 percent by 2015. But coal and electric utility lobbyists are backing bills to block the Governor’s plan and instead use the much weaker federal rules, including pollution...
“trading” allowances that could cause dangerous toxic hotspots in Pennsylvania. Clean Water Action was able to block the pro-mercury bills in the legislature this year, but expects the mercury cleanup fight to continue in 2007.

RHODE ISLAND Clean Water Action pulled off a string of big environmental health wins in the 2006 General Assembly. Passage of the Dental Mercury Pollution Prevention Act, which requires dentists to control mercury from fillings which is washed down their office drains, means that 75 pounds per year of mercury will now be prevented from entering Rhode Island’s environment. The Electronic Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling Act bans computers and televisions from state landfills and requires the state to develop a plan for the collection, recycling, and reuse of e-waste. Computers, televisions and other discarded electronic equipment contain lead, mercury, and other toxins that can damage kidneys, nervous and reproductive systems, posing special risks to the developing fetus and growing children. The Anti-Idling Act bans excessive idling of diesel engines, especially in circumstances that pose health threats, such as school buses waiting to board. Diesel exhaust can trigger asthma and heart attacks and cause cancer. The law also requires the state to identify other sources of diesel emissions in Rhode Island and strategies for reducing them. Letters, calls and e-mail messages to state lawmakers from Clean Water Action members were central to these victories.

SOUTH DAKOTA Controversy continues to boil over a proposed $1.6 billion, 600-megawatt (MW) expansion of the existing 450 MW Big Stone coal-burning power facility in eastern South Dakota, not far from the Minnesota border. Clean Water Action is organizing members in both states to oppose the plant, which would emit mercury, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur dioxide and contribute to soot and smog pollution. South Dakota has some of the highest clean wind power potential of any state in the nation.

TEXAS Clean Water Action presented more than 600 letters from concerned citizens to the Texas Tax Reform Commission this year calling for increased penalties on environmental lawbreakers and the implementation of a 7.5% tax on the use of coal. The proposals are part of a “green tax” initiative that would discourage polluting behavior while raising revenues for education and other core programs... Clean Water Action canvass teams are currently collecting letters from members to Gov. Rick Perry and his three challengers for the governor’s office expressing opposition to Perry’s plans to fast-track permits for 17 new proposed coal-burning power plants. If permitted, these plants would each year spew over 4,000 pounds of mercury into our air and water, more smog-forming gases than 1 million cars, and more global warming gases than 20 million cars.

VIRGINIA Clean Water Action helped win a record $281 million in funding for reducing pollution from farms and sewage treatment plants in a budget signed into law by Governor Tim Kaine. Following on the heels of Kaine’s November 2005 election victory, with Clean Water Action support, the governor has ambitiously pushed for clean water funding, improved land use decisions, and better transportation choices, all of which will lead to cleaner water in the Commonwealth.

WISCONSIN Clean Water Action began a new member recruitment campaign this August in the Eau Claire region to educate voters about mercury pollution problems in the state. Clean Water Action supports a stronger state mercury reduction program. The legislature delayed needed action on mercury only to find that the Bush Administration’s mercury rules do too little too late and fail to protect children from mercury’s devastating health impacts. Clean Water Action is now urging the state natural resources agency to propose new mercury controls that would reduce emissions 90 percent by 2010.

Reports Probe Key Issues

Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund regularly research and report on critical environmental topics. Reports available online, www.CleanWaterAction.org/publications, include:

Florida: Are We Still Wading in Waste? Documents hundreds of pollution spills in Florida’s waters, recommends urgently needed reforms to state spill reporting requirements.


Minnesota: Protecting and Restoring Minnesota’s North Shore Land and water quality threatened along the Lake Superior shore. Proposed restoration bills would yield environmental and economic benefits.

Michigan: Don’t Privatize the Water For-profit corporations attempt to assert ownership of Great Lakes waters and exploit the resource for private gain. Strong case for maintaining Lakes’ historic “public trust” status.

Michigan: “Greening” Stormwater Innovative alternatives to traditional development and stormwater management can reduce pollution and make communities more livable. Report spotlights “rain gardens” in Grand Rapids, Ingham County and Grayling as examples for the 21st Century.


Dental Mercury: What Patients Don’t Know Poll results show low patient awareness of dentists’ “sweet tooth” for mercury-amalgam fillings and resulting potential for pollution and health problems; recommends needed pollution prevention steps.

Toxic Chemicals and Children’s Health The Massachusetts-based Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow offers research reports by Clean Water Fund and others as resources for people seeking practical “better-safe-than-sorry” approaches to chemical policy.
2006 ELECTIONS

The 2006 Election: What’s at Stake

More than in most non-Presidential election years, voters who cherish clean water and other environmental protections will find much at stake this November. From the national level to the local level, two critical categories of environmental concerns — and Clean Water Action members like you, who share those concerns — could help elect new leaders who can change the political climate. There’s no question that things need to be changed.

On the water front, the Bush Administration’s “No Protection” policies threaten drinking water supplies for 110 million Americans. Out-of-control gasoline prices, erratic weather conditions, and record-breaking profits for Big Oil are all symptoms of a failed national energy strategy that provides neither energy security nor the environmental and economic benefits of clean, sustainably produced energy alternatives.

While there are many other issues also at stake in the 2006 elections, Clean Water Action members and the issues you care about can play a crucial role in this process. Members tell us they value knowing how candidates look from our perspective.

What are their records and promises on environmental issues? Even if they profess positive environmental values, are they leaders or followers? Will they make the extra effort needed to restore strong clean water protection nationwide?

Coming from a non-partisan organization, with a diverse membership reaching across the political spectrum, Clean Water Action’s analysis of candidates’ promises and records is an important source of information for environmentally concerned voters.

This special election issue of Clean Water Action News spotlights not only key Congressional and U.S. Senate races, but also important state contests. The photos and captions in this report also call attention to close allies, former staff and promising new leaders who are seeking elective office this year.

A lot is on the line for water, for environmental health, and for family and community protection on November 7, 2006. Please review this information, contact your local Clean Water Action office to learn more or to volunteer, and go to the polls and make sure your voice is heard as a well-informed environmental voter this election day.

Additional information on state and local races may be available through the state pages on Clean Water Action’s web site, www.CleanWaterAction.org

Places and Races

CALIFORNIA voters have a chance to replace the current governor’s disappointing environmental health performance with that of promising challenger, Phil Angelides; in the 11th District, Jerry McNerney is the clear choice over incumbent U.S. Rep. Richard Pombo who has used his influential House position to attack fundamental protections and attempt to sell off or commercialize public lands.

FLORIDA gubernatorial candidate Jim Davis has been a champion in the fight against oil and gas drilling that would damage Florida’s environment, and is a strong advocate for Everglades restoration and clean, safe water protections; incumbent U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson’s challenger, Rep. Katherine Harris, made the League of Conservation Voters’ “Dirty Dozen” list of Congress’ worst anti-environmentalists; in addition to Scott Randolph’s state legislative race (see photo), Clean Water Action is involved in other state contests with high environmental stakes (contact the Boca Raton office for details). Environmentalists, together with a diverse coalition of groups from all ends of the political spectrum, with many compelling economic, social, health protection, and community concerns are mobilizing to defeat Ballot Amendment 3, which would limit ordinary citizens’ access to the democratic process.

IOWA conservationists have a consistent friend in Jim Leach, who has been a reliable ally serving his state and 2nd District constituents as U.S. Rep. for three decades.

In MARYLAND, Ben Cardin is leaving his 3rd District U.S. House seat to bring his environmental leadership skills to the U.S. Senate, and John Sarbanes, son of retiring Senate environmental ally Paul Sarbanes, is stepping up to continue that tradition in the 3rd District. 8th District U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen continues to stand up for public health and environmental safeguards; in Martin O’Malley, environmentalists have found a strong candidate to replace incumbent Gov. Ehrlich whose performance has disappointed; voters also have a chance to advance land and water protections by supporting the Program Open Space ballot initiative.

MASSACHUSETTS offers voters the opportunity to elect a new governor, Deval Patrick (see photo) who would make the state a national leader in preventing toxic pollution; Clean Water Action has also identified several candidates for the state legislature whose election...
will further advance prospects for real breakthroughs in environmental health protection (contact the Boston office for details).

In MICHIGAN, strong environmental candidates are running at every level, from the local, such as Macomb County Commissioner candidate Sarah Roberts (see photo) to the U.S. Senate and governor’s races, where incumbents Debbie Stabenow and Jennifer Granholm, respectively, have built solid records; Jim Marcinkowski would be an outstanding replacement for anti-environmentalist U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers (8th District); Nancy Skinner is campaigning hard to unseat the 9th District’s polluter-friendly U.S. Rep. Knollenberg; there are several high-stakes state legislative races as well (contact the E. Lansing office for details).

MINNESOTA is another state with multiple contests and much opportunity for strengthening the state’s environmental representation; Hennepin County Attorney Amy Klobuchar will be a strong environmental successor to retiring U.S. Sen. Mark Dayton, whereas her opponent brings one of the U.S. House’s worst environmental records; challenger Tim Walz would bring a refreshing change from 1st District incumbent U.S. Rep. Gutknecht, whose poor performance is out of step with Minnesotans’ passionate concern for clean air and water; Keith Ellison’s record in the state legislature means he will bring a strong environmental voice representing the 5th District, replacing retiring U.S. Rep. Sabo; in the race for the open District 6 U.S. House seat, children’s advocate Patty Wetterling offers a needed change on energy and environmental health issues; in statewide races both Secretary of State candidate Mark Ritchie (see photo on p.12) and state Attorney General Mike Hatch, seeking the office of Governor, have mobilized enthusiastic support among environmentalists; with all 201 state legislative seats up for election, prospects are excellent for securing new environmental leadership in the statehouse if environmental voters turn out in force (contact the Minneapolis office for more on state races).

Environmental voting records for NEW HAMPSHIRE’s incumbent U.S. Reps. Bradley and Bass have declined precipitously, both falling well below 50% in the past year, which makes the challengers in both races, community activist Carol Shea-Porter (District 1) and attorney Paul Hodes (District 2), both of whom promise significant improvement, the choice for environmentalists who favor change; in addition to Clean Water Action friend and colleague David Borden’s state House bid (see photo on p.12), environmentalists are enthused about the potential for sending safe energy and consumer advocate Bob Backus to the State Senate, and the potential for gains in other state races as well (contact the Portsmouth office for details).

NEW JERSEY’s U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez, appointed to complete Gov. Corzine’s Senate term has earned environmentalists’ support and respect over the years; 7th District U.S. House challenger Linda Stender, a champion in the continued on page 12
2006 ELECTIONS

DAVID BORDEN  Following many years as a Clean Water Fund Board Member, and a past chair of River Network’s Board of Directors, David Borden is seeking election to the New Hampshire legislature from the district that includes his home town of Newcastle and nearby Rye. A strong and effective advocate for clean water, smart growth and sustainable communities, David received the 2006 James R. Compton Award for Lifetime Achievement in Watershed Protection at the National River Rally, at Mt. Washington. His campaign has attracted broad support from conservation and environmental leaders in the state.

MARK RITCHIE  As president of the Minneapolis-based Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Mark has been a leading voice on conservation and environmental health issues in the Midwest and nationally. His campaign to unseat the incumbent Secretary of State has won enthusiastic support from Clean Water Action. A longtime friend, colleague and close ally of Clean Water Action’s, he pledges to improve voter registration and voting rules and promote transparency in Minnesota’s government operations.

places & races continued from page 11

state Assembly on pesticide safety and other key issues, could significantly improve the District’s representation on Capitol Hill; 3rd District U.S. Rep. Jim Saxton has earned environmentalists’ support over the years, most recently helping to elevate Oyster Creek safety concerns, with colleagues, Reps. Smith, Pallone and Holt (see p. 8); Question 2 offers voters statewide the chance to ensure urgently needed funding for parks and open space.

Pennsylvania voters have a chance to send state Treasurer Bob Casey to the U.S. Senate as a replacement for the incumbent, Rick Santorum, whose shameful record placed him on the League of Conservation Voters “Dirty Dozen” list of Congress’ worst anti-environmentalists; Gov. Ed Rendell has built a solid environmental record in his first term; four promising U.S. House challengers would bring new environmental leadership to Washington, DC, Jason Altmire in District 4, Lois Murphy in District 6, Joe Sestak in District 7, and Patrick Murphy in District 8; and outcomes in several state races could significantly improve the legislature’s environmental performance (contact the Philadelphia office for details).

In Wisconsin, Eau Claire-area voters have a chance to replace two environmental “zeros” in the state senate (in Districts 23 and 31) with proven environmental leaders (contact the Midwest campaign office in Minneapolis for details).

FROM THE PRESIDENT • David Zwick

What makes Clean Water Action so effective?
I have addressed this question before. My answer has always been that our great strength is our ability to get results through grassroots people-power. And the invaluable roles played by Clean Water Action members.

You’ve done it again. Earlier this summer, Clean Water Action News, other special mailings, and personal contacts by our door-to-door and telephone campaigners alerted Clean Water Action members to dangers posed by the Bush Administration’s “No Protection” policy, which is undermining the Clean Water Act.

Your timely, generous and ongoing responses are helping to turn the tide. Your messages to Congress are getting through. The actions you take are not only important to Clean Water Action, they often make the winning difference.

Take a moment to read some of the comments we’ve recently received from members like you (p. 5), and you’ll see why it is still so inspiring to be involved with this organization more than 35 years after its founding.

You can make an especially large difference in the weeks and months ahead. Our Protect America’s Waters campaign needs your help. Your actions this November 7 as environmental voters supporting pro-environment candidates are also urgently needed. Your votes, your volunteer efforts, your calls and letters to Congress and to state and local officials, the extra financial support you can provide — all are adding up to a better world.

You can also help elect Clean Water Action’s next Board of Directors. Starting on the next page (p. 13) is information on the candidates selected by our Board’s Nominating Committee. In addition to voting to elect our Board, please also take a moment to weigh in on the ballot that will select the organization’s issue priorities for the next year.

I can not thank you enough for your ongoing support and action.

Sincerely,

David Zwick, President & Founder
ATTENTION CLEAN WATER ACTION MEMBERS

As a Clean Water Action member, you play a role in electing the organization’s Board of Directors. Descriptions of candidates recommended by Clean Water Action’s Board Nominating Committee appear below. Please read over their qualifications and use the form on the reverse to record your vote.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? In addition to helping to elect the Board of Directors, Clean Water Action’s members will vote on the organization’s national issue priorities for the coming year. Clean Water Action’s Board and staff will implement the program priorities that you select with your vote. Completed Board Election and Issue Priority ballots may be returned by mail or fax. Or you may complete your ballot online. (Please refer to the instructions on page 14).

TAking Action While you are voting to elect Clean Water Action’s next Board of Directors and establish the organization’s program priorities for the coming year, be sure to weigh in as well on Clean Water Action’s Protect America’s Waters campaign. Your signed support statement and extra donation will make a difference at what could be a critical turning point for the nation’s environmental future.

CLEAN WATER ACTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE DESCRIPTIONS

Brent Baeslack (Massachusetts), community leader with the Haverhill Environmental League, with an active interest in drinking water and wetlands protection, solid waste and recycling issues, and the grassroots environmental justice movement.

Pat Costner (Arkansas), activist scientist for 30 years. Co-founder of the National Water Center and author of We All Live Downstream, both addressing the relationship of water and human excreta. Formerly Coordinator and Research Director of the Greenpeace US Toxics Campaign, providing guidance and scientific support on local, regional and national issues, and Senior Scientist, Greenpeace International, participating in negotiations, expert groups, etc., of several global treaties in addition to continuing involvement in selected local, regional and national issues in many countries.

Elizabeth Dickinson (Minnesota), a local and statewide leader on energy and environmental health issues, active in local politics, brings more than 5 years of service on the board of Clean Water Action’s Minnesota chapter (Clean Water Action Alliance).

Michael Gravitz (Maryland), former national Clean Water Action staff person, local civic activist, small business consultant with expertise in budget, financial and computer technology, currently serving as Oceans Advocate for the U.S. Public Interest Research Group in Washington, DC.

Maxine Lipeles (Missouri) an environmental law professor at Washington University in St. Louis who founded and directs the University’s interdisciplinary environmental clinic. The clinic takes on environmental projects and cases combating pollution on behalf of community and environmental groups. Maxine was a student intern with Clean Water Action in 1974.

Peter Lockwood (District of Columbia), founding Board Member of Clean Water Action, former law clerk to the Supreme Court, and Partner in the Washington law firm, Caplin and Drysdale, with special expertise in non-profit law.

Myrna Poticha (Colorado), Consultant on Water Quality and Natural Habitat issues, and active in a wide array of civic and environmental affairs in the greater Denver area and statewide, including service on the Greenwood Village Water Quality Advisory Committee and as Clean Water Action liaison South Platte River Commission during Wellington Webb’s tenure as Denver’s mayor. Myrna has received national recognition from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and from the Clean Water Network for her leadership and commitment on western water issues.

Bill Redding (Wisconsin), an environmental/campaign consultant, leader in organizing the Mississippi River Basin Alliance, and former Sierra Club staffer, Bill brings more than 25 years’ experience with local, regional and national environmental issues, strong organizational development and consensus/coalition building background.

Maurice Sampson (Pennsylvania), member of CWA's Philadelphia steering committee and local environmental justice activist, recycling-based economic development expert, first Philadelphia City Recycling Office director, delegate to the national People of Color Environmental Justice Conference, helped establish Newark, New Jersey recycling program, and active campaign leader to strengthen Philadelphia area recycling programs.

Frances Spivy-Weber (California), recently retired as Executive Director of the Mono Lake Committee, an active force behind water conservation in Southern California. She and the Mono Lake Committee built upstream/downstream alliances to stop Los Angeles from diverting all the water from streams that feed the lake, in favor of a plan that leaves some water in the streams and makes up LA’s loss through conservation. Under Fran’s leadership, the Mono Lake Committee embraced and engaged environmental justice constituencies and launched innovative outdoor experiences programs bringing urban youth to their extended watershed.

David Tykulsker (New Jersey), longtime activist and New Jersey Environmental Federation board member (Clean Water Action’s Garden State chapter), attorney for towns and community groups on environmental issues, leader in the New Jersey Right to Know and Act Coalition.

David Zwick (Minnesota), founder and President of Clean Water Action, a Vietnam veteran, writer and organizer whose efforts to strengthen the grassroots environmental movement have played central roles in the development of national water and toxics policies since the 1970s.
1. VOTE

2006 CLEAN WATER ACTION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

☐ I approve the twelve nominees for the Board of Directors as recommended by the Nominating Committee.

☐ OR

☐ I vote for the following persons for the Board of Directors (please vote for no more than twelve):

☐ Brent Baeslack (Massachusetts)
☐ Pat Costner (Arkansas)
☐ Elizabeth Dickinson (Minnesota)
☐ Michael Gravitz (Maryland)
☐ Maxine Lipeles (Missouri)
☐ Peter Lockwood (District of Columbia)
☐ Myrna Poticha (Colorado)
☐ Bill Redding (Wisconsin)
☐ Maurice Sampson (Pennsylvania)
☐ Frances Spivy-Weber (California)
☐ David Tykulsker (New Jersey)
☐ David Zwick (Minnesota)

☐ ____________________________________

☐ ____________________________________

2006 NATIONAL ISSUE BALLOT

As a Clean Water Action member, your votes will determine the organization’s national issue priorities. At its next meeting, the Clean Water Action Board will direct staff to plan and conduct the organization’s programs based on the results from this balloting. Vote for the national issue(s) which are most important to you.

☐ Protecting drinking water, rivers, lakes and other water resources.

☐ Preventing health-threatening contamination of air, water, food, and communities.

☐ Increasing environmental enforcement and funding, and making polluters pay their fair share.

☐ Other (please specify): ________________________

Please provide your name and contact information here:

Name: ______________________________________

Mailing Address: ________________________________

Phone: (home) __________________________________

Phone: (work/other) ______________________________

E-mail address: __________________________________

Clip and return your completed ballots (plus support statements and donations) to Clean Water Action’s National Office: Clean Water Action, P.O. Box 11548, Washington, DC 20008-0748.

If you prefer, your CWA Board Ballot and Issue Ballot may be sent by fax to (202) 895-0438 or completed online at www.CleanWaterAction.org/members.

Thank you.

2. TAKE ACTION

Sign and return the statement of support endorsing the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act

Return this form, with your contribution to:
Clean Water Action
P.O. Box 11548
Washington, DC 20008-0748

You can also sign the statement of support and donate online at www.CleanWaterAction.org

Thank you.

Statement of Support for Protection of All America’s Waters

America depends upon clean water for healthy families and a healthy economy. The Clean Water Act has protected America’s streams, lakes, beaches, and wetlands from run-away pollution for more than 30 years. Today, 60 percent of America’s waters are considered “fishable and swimmable.” Yet, 40 percent are still so polluted that they are classified as legally “impaired” for at least one use. Now is the time to strengthen our clean water safeguards, not weaken them.

Instead, polluters and developers want to drop protections for more than half of America’s stream miles and millions of acres of wetlands. Federal budget proposals threaten to slash funding for safe drinking water and sewage treatment systems.

We need stronger laws and better enforcement to address these serious problems. I support Clean Water Action’s efforts to:

• Keep the Clean Water Act strong to help ensure supplies of clean, safe, and affordable water for the future.

• Hold accountable polluters and public officials who oppose strong protections, and

• Protect all America’s waters, including rivers, lakes, streams, beaches, and wetlands.

Please support passage of the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act.

Thank you!
3. CONTRIBUTE

Support the Protect America’s Waters Campaign.

Contributions to Clean Water Action support grassroots lobbying to combat pollution and keep our water clean. They are not tax-deductible. Return this form (and/or Board and Issue Ballots), with your contribution and signed support statement to:

Clean Water Action
P.O. Box 11548
Washington, DC 20008-0748

You can also sign the statement of support and donate online at www.CleanWaterAction.org

Thank you.

YES! I want to help keep America’s Clean Water Act strong and all our rivers, lakes, beaches, and wetlands clean and healthy. Use my special contribution to speak out against polluters and help pass the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act.

☐ (circle one): $30 $60 $120 $250 $500 $1,000 Other: $__________

Phone: __________________________ Email: __________________________

☐ Here’s my gift of $__________ to Clean Water Action.

☐ Please charge a total of $__________ to my (circle one): Visa MC AmEx Discover

Card #: __________________________ Exp. date: ____________

Name on card: __________________________ Sig. __________________________

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fax: (603) 450-9708

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Montclair, NJ 07042
(973) 744-3005
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WISCONSIN
505 King Street, #157
LaCrosse, WI 54601-9205
(608) 782-2012
fax: (608) 796-2180
Take the CLEAN WATER VISION TEST:
Can you see any Waters of the United States?

1. Pelican wetland roosting site, Bayport, Galveston Bay, Texas
2. Birch Creek, Lost River Drainages, Idaho
3. Cumberland River headwaters, Tennessee
4. Boulder Ditch, South Platte River tributary, Colorado
5. Solomon River tributary, north-central Kansas
6. Little River, Delaware Bay watershed, Delaware

Photographs reproduced from Reckless Abandon: How the Bush Administration is Exposing America’s Waters to Harm, a 2004 report by Earthjustice, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council and Sierra Club.

Look again.
Under the EPA/Army Corps “No Protection” Policy most of these waters are no longer protected, and all would lose protection permanently if the policy is allowed to stand.

Protect America’s Waters
Your help is needed at a time when our water resources face unprecedented assault.

• See inside to learn more.
• Your involvement can make a difference for waters you care about.


Photographs reproduced from Reckless Abandon: How the Bush Administration is Exposing America’s Waters to Harm, a 2004 report by Earthjustice, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council and Sierra Club.

THANK YOU for your generous response when Clean Water Action stopped by your home or reached you by phone.