



Clean Water Action

Chesapeake Sustainer Bulletin — June 2007

National

Clean Water Restoration Act Protects All America's Waters

On May 22, 2007, the Clean Water Restoration Act (H.R. 2421) was introduced in the House. When enacted, the law will clarify that the original intent of the Clean Water Act, passed in 1972, is to protect all of the nation's waters. Clean Water Action is playing a leading role in the campaign, which has already gathered 150 original cosponsors of H.R. 2421.

The campaign is in response to special interest efforts to "interpret" the Clean Water Act to apply only to some bodies of water. Drinking water for over 110 million Americans is at risk. 20 million acres of wetlands are in jeopardy. This is not what Congress intended or what the American people want.

We depend on clean water for healthy families and strong economies. 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 clean water safeguards, not weaken them.

We urge you to e-mail or write your Senate and House representatives and ask them to co-sponsor and support the Clean Water Restoration Act.

To send an e-mail visit Clean Water Action's website at www.cleanwateraction.org or

Write to:

**U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510**

**U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

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Climate Change: The Time Is Now

The leadership change the United States House and Senate has created a dramatic shift toward support of action to address the crisis of climate change. Clean Water Action is mobilizing grassroots support for key components of meaningful reductions for the United States in greenhouse gas emissions that are contributing to global warming. Failure to act will likely mean greater rises in sealevel, a larger loss of habitat and species, more intense flooding, drought, and storms.

In recent years, Clean Water Action stopped Bush Administration attempts to weaken the Clean Air Act through the so-called "Clear Skies Initiative," which, in spite of its name, would have made it easier for the energy industry to avoid reducing emissions at power plants throughout the nation. Senator Barbara Boxer, the new chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, not only has a strong environmental records, but replaces Oklahoma Senator James Inhofe, who continues to believe that global warming is a hoax.

As hearings are held and the committees debate which bills to advance to the floor, Clean Water Action members are contacting their Senators and Congressional representative to urge them to support the strongest possible climate change measures. The measures include support for clean alternative fuels, increased fuel efficiency, and stronger standards for greenhouse gas emissions.

Maryland

Annapolis Report

The 2007 session of the Maryland legislature resulted in two victories, the Clean Cars and Stormwater Management Acts of 2007, and set the stage for more success in the coming year for water advocates.

The Clean Cars Act of 2007 will reduce carbon emissions from automobiles in the state, a significant addition to the Healthy Air Act of 2006 in reducing Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions that are contributing to climate change. The Stormwater Management Act will have the Maryland Department of Environment set in place guidelines that will assist local jurisdictions in reducing street and other paved surface runoff contamination.

Two related bills failed to pass, but will return next year: the Green Fund and the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA). The Green Fund will dedicate a pollution-related fee (for the amount of pavement on a development) to fund the restoration of rivers, lakes and streams throughout Maryland, addressing waterway-specific needs. The GWSA will implement a number of measures to reduce "greenhouse gas" emissions in Maryland that are contributing to the global climate change crisis.

Please urge your legislators and the Governor to support the Green Fund and Global Warming Solutions Act during the coming year.

The ICC Still Doesn't Make Sense

Governor Robert Ehrlich resurrected the Inter-County Connector (ICC), a wasteful project that would connect I270 and I95, induce sprawl in the Washington metropolitan region and fail to relieve Beltway congestion, and made it the centerpiece of a statewide transportation plan that prioritizes highway construction over mass transit.

New Governor Martin O'Malley also supports the ICC, but with less fervor. Advocates of the environment and supporters of sound transportation planning are urging Governor O'Malley to review the ICC in the context of a new statewide transportation plan that should reflect the Governor's environmental commitment, and not his predecessor's lack of the same. Write the Governor. Urge him to save money, reduce government waste and stop the ICC.

New Leadership Provides Bay Protection

On May 23rd, Governor Martin O'Malley and Comptroller Peter Franchot used their votes on the Maryland Board of Public Works to turn down a wetlands permit application for a mammoth proposed development to be built on farmland on the Eastern Shore's environmentally sensitive Queen Anne's County. This vote by newly elected state leadership provides further evidence that Clean Water Action's 2006 electoral work will reap the benefits of increased environmental stewardship of Maryland's waters.

In late 2002, the development deal was signed by county commissioners AFTER they had been voted out in November elections of that year. The incoming commissioners were threatened with \$3 million dollars in liability penalties when they tried to undo the deal. Four years of bullying by Four Seasons ended in another election, and now a new set of commissioners are facing developer threats.

Most of the current commissioners elected in 2006 have indicated privately that they oppose the project, but have been threatened if they say so publicly. As for the Board of Public Works, according to the Baltimore Sun, an "attorney for the developers has argued that granting wetlands permits is a routine matter that should go through because that's what they almost always do."

Write to Governor O'Malley and thank him and the Board of Public Works for properly reviewing and rejecting a development had received approval from local officials, but would have been bad for the state because of its environmental impact. It was also just to disallow a project that had been locally opposed for over four years. The Bay will never recover if the state allows the bullying of local officials and ignores the environmental impact of growth in the state's most sensitive areas.

Write to:

Governor Martin O'Malley

Office of the Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

State Senators

Senate Office Bldg.
Annapolis, MD 21401

State Delegates

House Office Bldg.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delaware

A Victory Over Landfill Expansion, Now Support Clean Energy

Thanks to Clean Water Action members' and allies' grassroots opposition, House Bill (HB)1, a proposal to expand the Cherry Island landfill, was stricken from the Delaware House floor without a vote on May 10. HB 1 had passed out of the House Energy and Committee by a 6-3 vote, but had generated an outcry because it proposed to eliminate the ban on yard waste at the Cherry Island landfill. Enactment of the bill would have been a step in the wrong direction.

The Delaware Public Service Commission is weighing a decision on Delmarva Power's request for increasing energy production, including a 600 megawatt off-shore windfarm proposal with a good deal of support. Unfortunately, Governor Minner still seems inclined to favor a proposal for an integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) plant at Indian River, which would sustain dependence on coal, despite the proposing company's lack of public information on their proposal. Write Governor Minner and your representatives and urge them to support cleaner, renewable energy over coal-based energy.

Write to: **Governor Ruth Ann Minner**
William Penn Street
Tatnall Building, 2nd Floor
Dover, DE 19901

State Senators and Representatives
P.O. Box 1401
Dover, DE 19903

Virginia

Millions for Water Quality Improvement

The Virginia legislature to authorize bonds of up to \$250 million for sewage treatment improvements that will greatly reduce the amount of nutrient pollution in Virginia's waters. Added to the historic \$281 million that was appropriated in the 2006, grassroots pressure has won over half a billion dollars for Virginia's waterways.

The elections of 2007 are underway, and Clean Water Action will be communicating with its members throughout the summer and fall to mobilize the strongest environmental vote ever. Every Virginia state House and Senate seat, and most County seats are up for grabs this year, and our staff is targeting priority campaigns for action. Watch for field and phone staff to be contacting you in the coming months, and please don't hesitate to contact us if you want to help elect and elect strong water advocates at the state and local level in 2007.

To volunteer, contact:
Cherry Dabney at 202-895-0420, x136
or email afellows@cleanwater.org

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 and coalitions, and campaigns to elect environmental candidates and to solve environmental and community problems. This update was prepared for our Chesapeake regional members (in Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia) who contribute at the sustaining level of \$60 or more.

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District of Columbia

Election Victory Kicks off New Round of Action on Drinking Water

Clean Water Action members brought drinking water issues and lead testing results in local schools into the campaign for Muriel Bowser, who won the campaign to replace Mayor Adrian Fenty as Ward 4 Council representative. Bowser won Clean Water Action’s endorsement in part because of her support of a “top to bottom review” of the job the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) and the Army Corps of Engineers do in delivering clean, safe, and affordable drinking water to District residents.

Bowser will now sit on the Public Works and the Environment Committee, which oversees WASA, along with Chairman Jim Graham (Ward 1), Mary Cheh (Ward 3), Yvette Alexander (Ward 7), and Kwame Brown (At-Large). Write them and the Mayor and call for re-testing of drinking water fountains in the District’s public schools that uses the national protocol established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, not the misleading 45 minute pre-flush that significantly reduced the amount of lead found in earlier tests. Also, continue the call for a comprehensive review of the District’s drinking water, including its protection, treatment and distribution.

We need public health to be the priority in addressing local drinking water issues. Washington DC can and should have a world-class drinking water system.

Write to: Mayor Adrian Fenty and Councilmembers Jim Graham, Mary Cheh, Muriel Bowser, Yvette Alexander, and Kwame Brown
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20004