
IADD ACTION REQUEST

TO: IADD MEMBERS
FROM: CHERYL DAY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – IADD BOARD MEMBERS
SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT H.R. 2421/S.1870
DATE: 9/25/2007
CONTACT: CHERYL DAY, cday@iadd.info

ACTION REQUEST

The Illinois Association of Drainage Districts is asking all members to contact their U.S. Representative and Senator. Please contact your legislators and let them know how this fundamental change to the Federal Clean Water Act would personally effect your farming operation. It is important to encourage Congress not to rush into changing the jurisdictional reach of the Clean Water Act.

CONTACT INFORMATION

A vote could occur as early as this fall. Please contact your U.S. Congressmen, Bill Sponsors, and key Committee Members.

H.R. 2421: Currently is the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. Sponsor: James Oberstar (D-MN) Co-Sponsors: 169 (too many to list) Link: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:H.R.2421>

House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Link: <http://transportation.house.gov/water/index.shtml>

S.1870: Currently is the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Sponsor: Senator Feingold 20 Co-Sponsors: Link: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:S.1870> Senator Durbin is among the co-sponsors

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee link: <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

Illinois Members of Congress

The Honorable Richard Durbin
U.S. Senate
525 S. Eighth St.
Springfield, IL 62701
P: 217-492-4062 F: 217-492-4382
<http://durbin.senate.gov>

The Honorable Barack Obama
U.S. Senate
607 E. Adams
Springfield, IL 62701
P: 217-492-5089 F: 217-492-5099
www.obama.senate.gov

The Honorable Melissa Bean (D-8)
U.S. House of Representative
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www.house.gov/bean

The Honorable Jerry Costello (D-12)
U.S. House of Representative
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The Honorable Rahm Emanuel (D-5)
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The Honorable Phil Hare (D-17)
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236 N. Water St., Ste 765 Decatur 62523
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The Honorable Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-2)
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P: 708-798-6000 F: 708-798-6160

The Honorable Timothy Johnson (R-15)
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665 W. Lincoln, Unit 8 Charleston 61920
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The Honorable Daniel Lipinski (D-3)
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www.lipinski.house.gov

The Honorable Peter Roskam (R-6)
150 S. Bloomingdale Rd, Ste 200
Bloomingdale, IL 60108
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The Honorable Judy Biggert (R-13)
U.S. House of Representative
6262 S. Rte 83, Ste. 305
Willowbrook 60527
P: 630-655-2052 F: 630-655-1061
<http://judybiggert.house.gov>

The Honorable Danny Davis (D-7)
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www.house.gov/davis

The Honorable Luis Gutierrez (D-4)
U.S. House of Representative
3455 W. North Ave Chicago 60647
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<http://luisgutierrez.house.gov>

The Honorable Dennis Hastert (R-14)
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The Honorable Mark Kirk (R-10)
707 Skokie Blvd, Ste 350 Northbrook 60062
P: 847-940-0202 F: 847-940-7143

The Honorable Ray LaHood (R-18)
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The Honorable Donald Manzullo (R-16)
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The Honorable Bobby Rush (D-1)
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P: 773-224-6500 F: 773-224-9624
www.house.gov/rush

The Honorable Janice Schakowsky (D-9)
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The Honorable Jerry Weller (R-11)
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<http://weller.house.gov>

The Honorable John Shimkus (R-19)
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P: 618-392-7737 F: 618-395-8178
www.house.gov/shimkus

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

H.R. 2421/S. 1879 would fundamentally change the Federal Clean Water Act and how it affects farmers' operations. With this simple change, the Federal Government would regulate nearly every wet area. The removal of the term "Navigable Waters" from the 1972 Clean Water Act greatly expands the scope of areas and activities covered by federal regulations. As a result, landowners would need a permit for routine farming practices and opens up all farmers to lawsuits from any citizen.

IADD POSITION STATEMENT

Oppose H.R. 2421/ S. 1870

QUICK FACTS

- H.R. 2421/S. 1870 completely changes the Federal Clean Water Act. Up to today, Federal law has been governed by the commerce clause of the Constitution. These bills would expand the law to every power under the Constitution, resulting in new regulations and years of litigation.
- HR 2421/S. 1870 do not limit the types of waters that are regulated and do not limit regulation to water alone. The bill would, for the first time, re-write the law and authorize the most extensive possible interpretation of the term 'waters of the US.'" All interstate and navigable waterways, streams with permanent flow and streams with seasonal flow are already subject to Federal law.
- H.R. 2421/S. 1870 would allow the regulation of "all activities that affect waters." In other words, regardless of whether an activity is occurring in water, **the fact that the activity may impact water** would allow the activity to be regulated by federal agencies. This is a significant expansion of the law and its regulations.

ACTION DETAIL

1. Do your Homework: Read the summary sheets to learn more.
2. Know your Opponent: Learn what the supporters of the bills are saying:
Clean Water Action www.cleanwateraction.org;
Sierra Club <http://www.sierraclub.org/legislativetracker/109S912.asp>
3. Utilize the fact sheets and background information to write your legislator. Affiliate legislative teams should compose a sample letter for members to use. It is always recommended to use your own words and style.
4. Call your U.S. Congressman office. Do not be surprised if you are referred to a staff person or to leave your comments in a message form. Please remember legislators are very busy. They rely heavily on key staff personal to do the research. Sometimes an appointment or conversation with a staff person can be just as effective. Always thank your legislator and/or staff for his or her time.
5. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper.
6. Talk to your friends, neighbors, and other members of your community and spread the word!

Do not assume that your legislator (s) has been contacted. More contacts the better. Please make the personal contact or join forces when applicable with other agriculture leaders.

REFERENCE WEBSITES:

American Farm Bureau: <http://www.fb.org/index.php?fuseaction=legislative.cleanwateract>

National Association of Counties:

http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=environment_energy_and_land_use&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=22939

National Corn Growers: <http://capwiz.com/ncga/issues/bills/> (link to sponsors and co-sponsors contact information)

Croplife America Written Testimony:

http://www.croplifeamerica.org/design_06/viewer.asp?pageid=212

FEEDBACK

Any feedback that you received from a personal contact will assist us in this action.
Thank You!

QUESTIONS

If anyone has question about this Action Request please contact Cheryl Day 217-763-6300 or cday@iadd.info