

February 10, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Water Quality and the Farm Bill

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

As a diverse cross-section of conservation, municipal water, state, agriculture and forest organizations, we have long recognized the relationship between the quality of our nation's waters and agriculture practices and policies. America's clean water and agriculture practices are inextricably linked. In fact, over the next five years agricultural practices and policies will have the single greatest impact on our lakes, rivers and estuaries.

During the 112th Congress, the Farm Bill will provide an opportunity to substantially improve our nation's waters through the promotion of practices that improve the conservation performance of our farms and ranches. To this end, we look forward to working with you to craft a Farm Bill that better connects agricultural systems and practices to water quality improvements.

Whether you're a fisherman, a farmer or a family in a small town or major city, clean and safe water is central to your life. America's rich endowment of water resources has been a cornerstone of our nation's economic success. We must develop a Farm Bill that improves both our nation's water resources and the health of our agricultural working lands.

Again, we appreciate your early attention to this important matter and look forward to working with you on the upcoming Farm Bill. If you are interested in discussing ways in which agricultural policy can better support clean water goals, please contact Doug Siglin, Federal Affairs Director at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, at 202-544-2232 or dsiglin@cbf.org; or Pat Sinicropi, Director of Legislative Affairs at the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, at 202-533-1823 or psinicropi@nacwa.org.

Sincerely,

ADS Corporation
Alliance for Earth Observations
CDM
American Canoe Association
American Fisheries Society
American Fly Fishing Trade Association
American Public Works Association
American Rivers
American Water Works Association
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
Association of State & Interstate Water Pollution Control
Administrators
Atlantic Salmon Federation
Endangered Habitats League
Environmental Defense Fund

Environmental Law and Policy Center
Environmental Working Group
Greenpeace USA
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
National Association of Water Companies
National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Restore America's Estuaries
Sierra Club
Southern Environmental Law Center
Water Environment Federation
World Wildlife Fund

1000 Friends of Maryland
Accokeek Foundation
Alexandria Sanitation Authority, VA
Alliance for the Great Lakes
Arlington, TX Water Utilities
Association of Ohio Metropolitan Wastewater Agencies
Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.
Bad River Watershed Association
Bay Area Clean Water Agencies
Beaver Water District, AR
California Association of Sanitation Agencies
California Water Environment Association
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, Martinez, CA
Central Davis Sewer District
Central States Water Environment Association
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Chesapeake BaySavers
Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage
Chester River Association
City of Akron, OH Public Utilities Bureau
City of Columbus, OH Department of Public Utilities
City of Hillsboro, OR Utilities Commission
City of Rifle, CO Utility Department
City of Springfield, Missouri
City of Tulsa, OK
Colorado Watershed Assembly
Contra Costa Water District
Corsica River Conservancy
DC Environmental Network
DC Water
Delaware Nature Society
Denver Water
Des Moines Water Works
Emerald Coast Utilities Authority, FL
Federal Water Quality Association
Float Fishermen of Virginia
Friends of the Mississippi River
Friends of the Rivers of Virginia
Friends of the Shenandoah River
Friends of Wetlands
Future Harvest - A Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable
Agriculture
Galveston Bay Foundation
Georgia River Network
Great Neck Water Pollution Control District, NY
Great River Greening

Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District, WI
Illinois Water Environment Association
Independence Water Pollution Control Department, MO
Iowa Environmental Council
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility
James River Association
JEA Utility, FL
Kalamazoo River Cleanup Coalition
Kentucky Resources Council, Inc.
Kentucky Tennessee Water Environment Association
Kentucky Waterways Alliance
Las Vegas Valley Water District
Little Blue Valley Sewer District
Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
Metro Wastewater Reclamation, Denver, CO
Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Minnesota Environmental Science and Economic
Review Board
Mississippi River Corridor, Tennessee
Mississippi River Fund
Missouri Coalition for the Environment
Muskegon River Watershed Assembly
Narragansett Bay Commission
Nature Abounds
New England Interstate Water Pollution Control
Commission
New York Water Environment Association
Northeast Great Waters Restoration Coalition
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
Northwest Watershed Institute
Oklahoma Water Environment Association
Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association
Passaic Valley Water Commission
PennFuture
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers
People for Puget Sound
Potomac Riverkeeper
Prairie Rivers Network
Project SHARE
Providence Water Supply Board
Public Policy Virginia, Inc.

Renewable Water Resources
Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association
Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation, Saint Paul, MN
Sanitary District No. 1, KY
Save the Bay, Narragansett Bay, RI
Save the Dunes
Shenandoah Riverkeeper
South Carolina Coastal Conservation League
Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works
Spartanburg (S.C.) Water
Stewards of the Lower Susquehanna
Tarrant Regional Water District
Tennessee Clean Water Network
The Georgia Conservancy
Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District
Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Upper Occoquan Service Authority
Upper Trinity Regional Water District
Virginia Conservation Network
Virginia League of Conservation Voters
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
Western Lake Superior Sanitary District
West Virginia Rivers Coalition