

News Release



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Clean Water Trust Fund Bill Introduced in House, NACWA Applauds Effort

Washington, D.C. — In a bold move to address America's growing infrastructure funding crisis, Chairman John J. Duncan, Jr. of the House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee introduced landmark legislation — *The Clean Water Trust Act of 2005* (H.R. 4560). The Chairman has demonstrated his clear commitment to the health of the American people and the Nation's treasured waterways. The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) applauds the leadership and vision of Chairman Duncan in introducing a bill providing approximately \$7.5 billion annually to improve America's waters. *The Clean Water Trust Act* will:

- help urban and rural communities protect public health and the environment by restoring the federal-state-local financial partnership necessary to achieve the goals of the Clean Water Act ;
- create a dedicated, deficit-neutral Clean Water Trust Fund, similar to those that successfully finance highways and airports;
- address the U.S. EPA's estimated clean water funding gap of \$300-500 billion; and
- guarantee that over 30 years of water quality progress under the Clean Water Act is continued

As Chairman Duncan stated in his press release, "There is nothing as important and yet nothing as taken for granted as a safe, clean supply of water. We have to do more to protect and enhance our clean water and wastewater systems for the future."

NACWA's Executive Director, Ken Kirk, stated "Chairman Duncan deserves tremendous credit for his commitment to an innovative and real-world approach to an issue that threatens the Nation's economy, public health and environment. *The Clean Water Trust Act* will help control sewer overflows, enhance fisheries and wetlands, encourage research, spur new technologies, enhance investment in small and rural utilities, and protect critical regional waters such as the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay and Gulf of Mexico."

Supporters of the legislation include: The Associated General Contractors of America, National Association of Towns and Townships, Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Ducks Unlimited, Western Coalition of Arid States, American Society of Civil Engineers, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, American Council of Engineering Companies, Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Trout Unlimited, American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association, Design Build Institute of America, Construction Management Association of America, American Supply Association, Plastics Pipe Institute, Underground Contractors Association, American Sportfishing Association, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and NACWA.

NACWA appreciates the strong leadership of Subcommittee Chairman Duncan in holding hearings on this subject in June of this year and in introducing this legislation today. NACWA is also leading an aggressive grassroots campaign, via a new website dedicated to supporting H.R. 4560 and a renewed federal investment in clean water called Clean Water America (www.cleanwateramerica.org). Over one hundred organizations and thousands of individuals from coast-to-coast have already joined Clean

Water America and have signed the Clean Water America petition – calling for a significant new federal investment in clean water.

NACWA is a national trade association representing hundreds of the nation's publicly owned wastewater treatment utilities. NACWA members serve the majority of the sewered population in the United States and collectively treat and reclaim over 18 billion gallons of wastewater every day. NACWA members are environmental practitioners dedicated to protecting and improving the nation's waters and public health.