

NEWS from the T&I DEMOCRATS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Democratic Caucus

U.S. House of Representatives, 2163 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515

www.house.gov/transportation_democrats

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America Losing Progress on Clean Water Oberstar: waivers, loopholes, and rollbacks by GOP Administration and Congress at fault

WASHINGTON—Efforts to clean up America’s waters has stalled, even slipped, under the stewardship of the Bush Administration and the Republican-controlled Congress. That’s the finding of a report released today by Rep. James L. Oberstar (Minn.), Ranking Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

The report, “Waivers, Loopholes, and Rollbacks: the Republican Contract on Clean Water,” cites strong evidence that current policies have slowed, stopped, or reversed the progress made since the inception of the Clean Water Act in 1972. The report lays responsibility squarely on the shoulders of the Administration and Congress, especially the Republican leadership of the House:

The House Republican majority has presided over the slow, but steady, dismantling of the Clean Water Act. Whether through direct legislative proposals to repeal many of the safeguards in the Act, through efforts to restrict or eliminate funding for Federal agencies charged with the responsibility of implementing or enforcing the nation’s environmental laws, or by sitting on the sidelines while the Bush administration actively undermines Federal protections over the nation’s waters, the Republican majority has led the charge to undermine one of the nation’s premiere environmental statutes believing that the Clean Water Act it is too bureaucratic, too expensive, and bad for American business.

According to the document, America is at a crossroads on clean water. We can move backward or forward. Which will we choose?

The answer depends as much on our own commitment to finishing the job that began with passage of the Clean Water Act 34 years ago, as on ensuring that our elected officials share our views. Now, more than ever, we must reaffirm our commitment to restoring and protecting our nation’s greatest natural resources – our rivers, lakes, streams, coastal areas, and wetlands.

We owe future generations no less.

The release of the report coincides with the 34th anniversary of the enactment of the Clean Water Act.

**Read the complete Clean Water Act report at
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