



## Help Stop Changes to the Clean Water Act Call your Member of Congress Today!

Last year, in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, Representative James Oberstar (D-MN), Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, introduced legislation in Congress that would expand federal Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction over all waters within the United States, including all intrastate waters. This essentially means that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corp of Engineers could be granted unlimited regulatory control over all wet areas within a state, including groundwater, ditches, pipes, streets and gutters.

The NAHB Government Affairs Staff believes that Representative Oberstar is again working to introduce similar, if not identical, legislation in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

### How Could This Impact You?

If legislation expanding federal CWA jurisdiction were to pass in Congress, builders could be negatively impacted in a number of significant ways. Generally, such broad federal control of intrastate waters could greatly restrict both a landowner's ability to make decisions about his property, and state and local governments' right to plan for their development.

More specifically, past legislative language has been broad enough to regulate all activities that "affect" waters, regardless of whether an activity (like home building) is occurring in or near water. If the federal CWA is expanded to regulate all waters, this expansion could further delay the permitting process. Currently, it takes two to three years to obtain an individual permit – the current backlog for individual permits is estimated to be between fifteen and twenty thousand. Therefore, if builders have to obtain a permit for every drop of water on the property, the costs and burden of increased paper work will only further delay an already overburdened and understaffed agency.

### How You Can Help

Please take the following steps to contact your Member of Congress about this issue:

1. Call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask for your Member of Congress' office.
2. Tell them who you are, the name of your hometown, and that you are member of the National Association of Home Builders.
3. Tell them *NOT* to cosponsor or support any proposed legislation that would provide virtually limitless federal Clean Water Act jurisdiction over all waters within the United States

**Please Give Us Your Feedback!** We want to know what your Member of Congress is saying about this issue. Please fill out and return the "[Quick-Fax Feedback Sheet](#)," or e-mail us at [alertfeedback@nahb.com](mailto:alertfeedback@nahb.com).

If you have questions about this alert, please contact Annie Raymond, Federal Legislative Director, at 1-800-368-5242, ext. 8307 or via e-mail at [araymond@nahb.com](mailto:araymond@nahb.com).



**Legislative Alert**  
**QUICK-FAX FEEDBACK**

*Thank you for responding to NAHB's Legislative Alert!*

Your feedback is extremely helpful to our Legislative and Political Relations team. Please take a moment to fill out this form and send it to:

**FAX: (866) 314-4603 or (202) 266-8572**  
**or e-mail your feedback to [alertfeedback@nahb.com](mailto:alertfeedback@nahb.com)**

*Check this box and include your fax number to be removed from the mailing list.*

**Your name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your company:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Who you contacted:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Member of Congress, administration official or staff person)

**Method of contact used:**     Email     Fax     Phone     Mail

**Date of contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Legislative issue(s) discussed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Feedback:** (Briefly describe your interaction with the person you contacted. Was the response favorable? Did your contact promise to follow up on your concerns? In what way?)

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**(Attach additional pages as necessary)**

