

January 19, 2011

The Honorable
123 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Water Quality and the Farm Bill

Dear Member of Congress,

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 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.

Sincerely,

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 & Interstate Water Pollution
Control Administrators
Atlantic Salmon Federation
Audubon
Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Law and Policy Center
Environmental Working Group
Georgia River Network

Greenpeace USA
Muskegon River Watershed Assembly
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
National Parks Conservation Association
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National Wildlife Federation
Northeast Midwest Institute
Northwest Watershed Institute
Project SHARE
Restore America's Estuaries
Sierra Club
South Carolina Coastal Conservation League
The Georgia Conservancy
Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Water Environment Federation