

Healthy Waters Initiative to Release Recommendations for Farm Bill Reauthorization National Press Club, Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, March 6th from 12:00 to 1:30 EST (Lunch will be served)

What: As Congress begins its debate for reauthorizing the Farm Bill, a diverse coalition of municipal water and wastewater authorities, state drinking water and pollution control administrators, sustainable agriculture and conservation organizations have come together to urge Congress to strengthen the links between our working agricultural lands and the quality of our Nation's waters. The coalition will announce its policy recommendations for how Congress could address water quality challenges facing the agricultural community. In addition, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies will release a white paper detailing why urban citizens and industrial ratepayers of drinking water and wastewater services are paying attention to this issue.

Who: Noted speakers from municipal water, wastewater, conservation and the farming community will participate in this event. Scheduled speakers include:

Ken Kirk, National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Diane VanDe Hei, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
Kevin Shafer, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sanitation District
Steve Hershner, Cedar Rapids Wastewater Treatment Plant
Jim Taft, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
Alex Dunn, Association of Clean Water Administrators
Ron Kreider, Kreider Farms, Pennsylvania
Ed Shafer, Former North Dakota Secretary of Agriculture and Representative of Bion Corp.
Ferd Hoefner, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
Jeff Eger, Water Environment Federation
Ben Grumbles, Clean Water America Alliance
Scott Faber, Environmental Working Group
Invited: Senator Tom Harkin

Why: According to state water quality reports, more than half of the rivers, streams, lakes, and estuaries in the United States are impaired because of nutrient over-enrichment, compromising the quality of our drinking, recreational, and aquatic water supplies. A dominant source of these nutrients is from agricultural run-off. The 112th Congress has an opportunity to improve our Nation's waters by targeting conservation investments, strengthening agricultural policies, and ensuring taxpayer dollars are effectively used by farmers to address these water quality challenges.

Who Should Attend: Journalists covering agricultural, water quality, or other environmental issues and others interested in protecting the Nation's waters.

When: Tuesday, March 6, 2012, 12:00-1:30 pm, EST (lunch will be served)

Where: The National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20045

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