

Former USDA Secretary Ed Schafer Joins Healthy Waters Coalition 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: Former USDA Secretary and two-term North Dakota Governor joins a diverse coalition of municipal water and wastewater authorities, state drinking water and pollution control administrators, sustainable agriculture and conservation organizations to urge Congress to strengthen the links between our working agricultural lands and the quality of our Nation's waters. The former Governor joins members of the Healthy Waters coalition to announce 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: Joining the former USDA Secretary are noted speakers from municipal water, wastewater, conservation and the farming community for the event. Scheduled speakers include:

Ed Shafer, Former USDA Secretary and North Dakota Governor; Representative of Bion Corp.
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
Ferd Hoefner, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
Jeff Eger, Water Environment Federation
Ben Grumbles, Clean Water America Alliance
Brad Redlin, Izaak Walton League of America
Scott Faber, Environmental Working Group
Shana Urdvardy, American Rivers

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

Media Contact:

Pat Sinicropi
Director of Legislative Affairs, NACWA
psinicropi@nacwa.org
202.533.1823
For more information: www.nacwa.org

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