

June 24, 2025

RE: Oppose H.R. 3898, the PERMIT ACT, a dangerous attack on our clean water protections

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, the undersigned organizations urge you to oppose H.R. 3898, the “Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today Act,” or PERMIT Act, a suite of anti-clean water legislation that will be coming before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee this week. This package of bills is a reckless attack on our clean water safeguards, and would jeopardize the waters that our families, communities, businesses, and wildlife depend on. Clean water should not be a tool for political stunts or favors to industry donors – people from the most rural communities to the most densely populated cities all rely on our bedrock clean water protections every day.

Numerous provisions in these harmful bills would shield industrial dischargers who pollute or destroy our streams, lakes, wetlands, and other waters from responsibility and accountability, thereby forcing our communities to shoulder the financial and public health burden of increased pollution and flooding. For instance, these bills would:

- Allow industrial polluters to discharge forever chemicals into waters without informing pollution control officials;
- Hamstring states and Tribes from acting to prevent harm to their critical water bodies from projects such as oil and gas pipelines;
- Give blanket authority to the US Army Corps of Engineers to exclude any kind of waterbody from Clean Water Act protection in the future;
- Restrict EPA’s authority to require usage of objectively affordable, effective treatment technology by industrial dischargers in certain situations, even if facilities are already regularly using the technology;
- Allow massive amounts of pesticides to be released into waterways without Clean Water Act-mandated controls designed to keep waterways safe for people and aquatic life;
- Fast-track activities that destroy vast amounts of wetlands and streams without ensuring these harms are mitigated;
- Reject a federal court’s finding that Florida’s assumption of federal Clean Water Act permitting authority was insufficient to provide adequate safeguards, and require EPA to automatically approve any comparable (i.e. similarly insufficient) application for such authority in other states.
- Prevent the EPA from exercising its longstanding authority to prevent dumping projects that endanger entire watersheds, except in very narrow circumstances.

Incredibly, this is only a partial list of the detrimental impacts of this package of dangerous bills. Together, these bills would devastate critical, longstanding protections for our clean water. Added to the series of brazen attacks on clean water safeguards the Trump administration has

announced, this Congressional dirty water scheme would merely prioritize industry profits over public health.

Unlike the proponents of these bills and their polluter allies, people want and support *stronger* federal protections for our nation's waters. Too many communities, especially Indigenous communities, rural communities, communities of color, and low wealth communities, still lack clean water. Instead of attempting to undermine clean water safeguards, Congress should be focused on putting people before polluters and working to ensure everyone, no matter their race, zip code, or income, has access to clean water.

Again, we urge you to oppose H.R. 3898, a suite of anti-clean water legislation that would endanger the waters our families and communities depend on and undermine the Clean Water Act's objective "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters."

Sincerely,

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Amigos Bravos
Anacostia Riverkeeper
Bayou City Waterkeeper
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Chesapeake Legal Alliance
Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge
City of Goshen, Indiana, Stormwater Department
Clean River Partners
Clean Water Action
Climate Justice Alliance
Committee on the Middle Fork Vermilion River
Community Water Center
Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania
CURE
Earthjustice
Elkhart River Restoration Association
Endangered Habitats League
Environmental Integrity Project
EPCAMR
Flow Water Advocates
Food & Water Watch
Freshwater Future
Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness
Friends of the Mississippi River
GreenLatinos
Hoosier Environmental Council
Huron River Watershed Council

Hydropower Reform Coalition
Illinois Environmental Council
Indiana Conservation Voters
Indiana Wetlands Association
Iowa Environmental Council
Kentucky Resources Council
Kentucky Waterways Alliance
Labadie Environmental Organization
Land Stewardship Project
League of Conservation Voters
Miami Waterkeeper
Michigan League of Conservation Voters
Mill Creek Alliance
Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League of America
Minnesota Environmental Partnership
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Northern Waters Land Trust
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
NY/NJ Baykeeper
Ohio River Foundation
One Mississippi
Owen-Putnam Friends of the Forest
Park Watershed
PennFuture
Penobscot BayWatch
Riverkeeper
Satilla Riverkeeper
ShoreRivers
Sierra Club
Socially Responsible Agriculture Project
South Carolina Coastal Conservation League
Southern Environmental Law Center
U.S. Climate Action Network
Universal Access to Clean Water for Tribal Communities
Vermont Conservation Voters
Waterkeeper Alliance
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
WaterLegacy
Wildlife for All