

You know what clean water is worth to him.



What's it worth to you?

Clean water standards are being attacked by the new Congress. If they succeed polluters would discharge more sewage and toxic industrial wastes into America's rivers, lakes and oceans. Fishing, swimming, beach walking

and even the drinking water from your faucet could become unsafe.
Say YES to clean water!
Say NO to Congressional efforts to weaken Clean Water Act standards!

Join anglers, boaters, beach combers, the Sierra Club, Oregon Trout and other clean water supporters for music, fun, and wooden boats, as we celebrate and rally for clean water.



SAT., AUG. 12, NOON - 3:00
WATERFRONT PARK
BETWEEN THE HAWTHORNE BRIDGE AND RIVERPLACE

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CALL (503)
238-6395



Join the Clean Water Canoeists on the last day of the Trip.

They started in Eugene.

They're finishing in Portland.

Sat, Aug 12th, join the Oregon Clean Water Canoeists on the last day of their 170 mile river journey. Then join the fun and music at Portland's Waterfront Park. Bring your canoe, kayak or boat and drop in at any of these points.

12 30 PM • River mile 13
Canoeists arrive for the Oregon Clean Water Celebration and Rally at Portland's Waterfront Park

11 30 AM • River mile 16
Canoeists pass Portland's Sellwood Riverfront Park and make a brief stop at Willamette Park

Need a canoe or kayak? Rentals are available from the following suppliers:

Alder Creek Kayak Supply (503) 285 0464,
Ebb and Flow Paddle-sports (503) 245 1756,
REI (503) 283 1300
and 624 8600, and
Sportcraft Marina (503) 656 6484

For more information about the Clean Water Canoe Paddle, contact the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club at (503) 238 6395

10 00 AM • River mile 18.5
Canoeists pass Milwankie's public boat ramp and the confluence of Johnson Creek and the Willamette River

9 15 AM • River mile 20.5
Canoeists pass Oak Grove boat ramp

9 00 AM • River mile 21
Canoeists pass Lake Oswego's George Rogers Park

8 00 AM • River mile 23
Canoeists pass West Linn's Cedar Oak boat ramp

7 00 AM • River mile 25
Canoeists begin final day at Oregon City's Clackamette Park, at the confluence of the Clackamas and Willamette Rivers

**CLEAN WATER
SUPPORTERS INCLUDE**

Ash Creek Press

Mango Media

Escape from NY

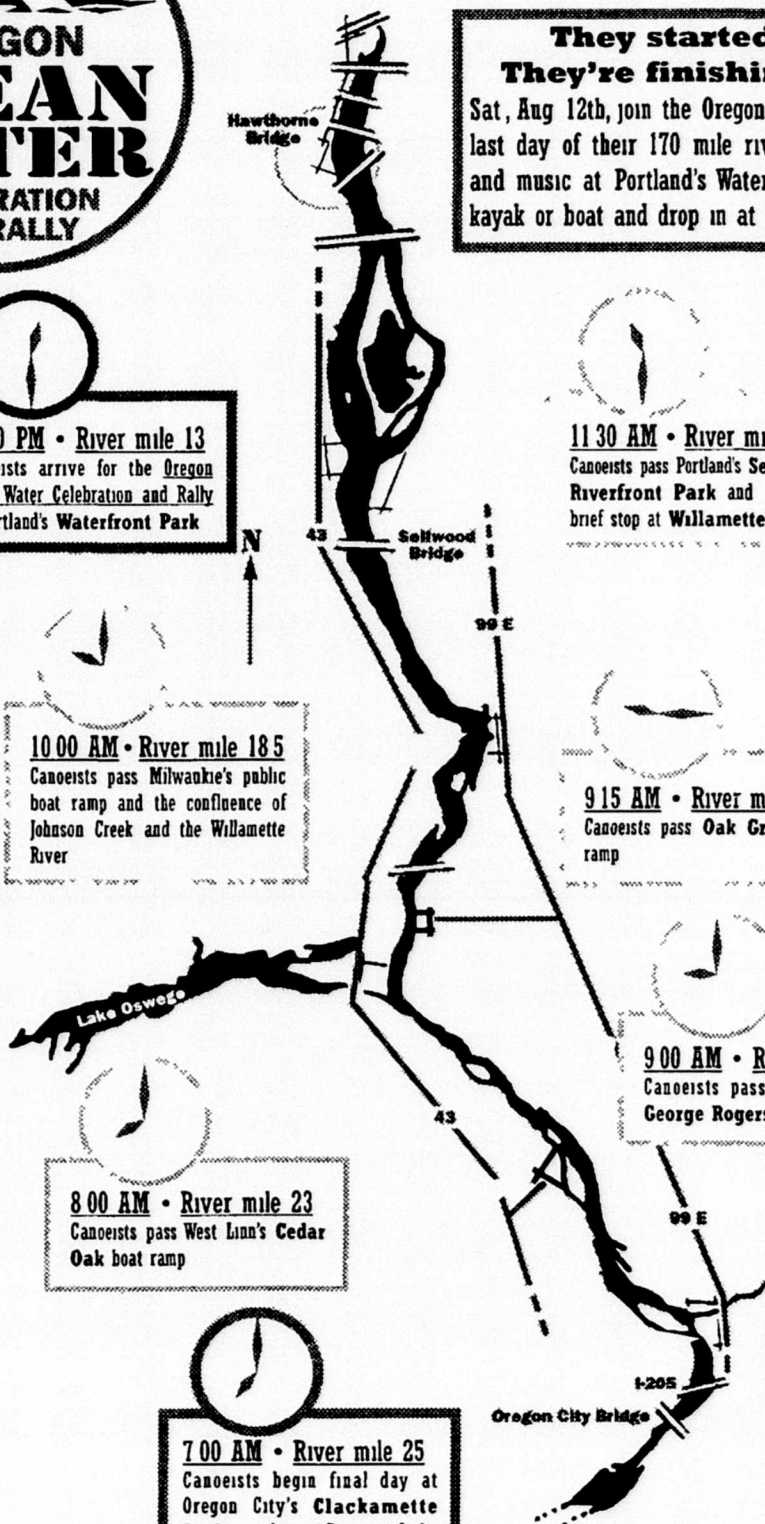
Tazo Tea

Caelestis Productions

Kutter's

Alder Creek Kayak

City of Portland Environmental Services



START

1342

35432

Oregon's Clean Water at Risk
The Congressional Assault on Clean Water



by

Don Francis

and

Jonathan Poisner

on behalf of

The Oregon Chapter, Sierra Club

August 3, 1995

For more information, you may contact
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Introduction

H²O Water, the only chemical equation known by virtually every American adult and child. No other substance contributes more to our lives. Water is the solvent of life. Every life form is comprised largely of water. Humans can only live a few days without potable water.

In addition to supporting basic biological needs, we use water for manufacturing, navigation, irrigation, hydropower, seafood, recreation, and to carry wastes away from our communities.

Given the importance of usable water, it comes as little surprise that most Americans rank clean water as a top priority.

Along the Willamette River, Oregonians were at least a decade ahead of national efforts to clean up polluted water. Passage of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 ("The Clean Water Act") gave further impetus to this effort, and helped ensure that efforts to clean up the Willamette were fully extended to all of Oregon's waterways.

The Clean Water Act established national policy that the waterways of our nation would be safe for swimming and would support healthy native fish populations. In the years that followed its passage, the importance of the Clean Water Act rapidly became clear. As the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality concluded in a recent report "*The Clean Water Act has been the driving force in creating programs and laws to protect our rivers, lakes, and oceans*" (1994 305(b) Report).

Much progress has been made. Many of our waterways are cleaner. Countless individuals have taken advantage of these clean waters to swim, boat, or fish in areas that they previously could not safely use. Fish have returned to areas that had previously become uninhabitable. Dramatically less raw sewage flows into our rivers, with almost all the rest scheduled for eventual treatment.

More progress is needed. Polluted runoff from farms, forestry, and urban areas continue to degrade Oregon's rivers and lakes. Release of toxic pollutants into waterways continues. Currently, according to the Oregon DEQ, over 15,000 miles of Oregon's waterways fail to fully meet the "fishable and swimmable" goals.

Rather than turning our attention to these remaining threats, however, we are confronted today with the opposite: an attempt to abandon America's fight for clean water.

On May 16, 1995, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation which would dramatically weaken the Clean Water Act. Drafted by Pennsylvania Representative Bud Shuster, this legislation, known as H.R. 961, would make a wide range of changes to the CWA. Scores of CWA standards and programs would be effected. If it were to become law, H.R. 961 would represent an

Clean Water at Risk, August 3, 1995

abandonment by the federal government of its historic role as the driving force behind the cleaning up of this nation's waters

H R 961 is not the only Congressional assault on Oregon's clean water. Under the guise of "Regulatory Reform," both the House (H R 9) and Senate (S 343) would make it far more difficult to enforce the nation's environmental protection laws, such as the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. H R 9 passed the House in March, 1995. As of this writing, S 343 is still pending in the Senate. On the Senate side, legislation has also been introduced (S 851) which would eliminate most of the national wetlands protection rules.

This Report was prepared by the Oregon Chapter, Sierra Club, with the intent of informing Oregonians of the threat facing Oregon's legacy of clean water. If H R 961 or these other bills were to become law, the cost to Oregonians are incalculable. Many of the impacts are difficult to predict with precision. Nevertheless, by tracking the changes that H R 961 and these other laws would make to the existing Clean Water Act, one can clearly chart the likely impacts to Oregon's rivers, lakes, and coastal zones.

This Report is organized around various existing Clean Water programs which would be affected by the pending Congressional legislation. The sections covered do not represent all of the negative changes made, but rather just the most significant ones. For each program, we provide

- (a) background information,
- (b) information on the proposed changes to the law,
- (c) discuss what this means for Oregon, and
- (d) make clear who would benefit from these changes

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NATIONAL WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Background "Fishable and swimmable" waterways is the goal of the Clean Water Act (CWA). To meet this goal, the CWA requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue national guidelines for water quality standards. The CWA then allows states to establish water quality standards, but these standards must be no weaker than those established by EPA.

The Effect of H.R. 961 H.R. 961 discourages EPA from issuing national guidance or rules. The current level "playing field" between states would be undermined.

The Impact on Oregon Lacking national standards, Oregon's legislature and Environmental Quality Commission, like those in other states, would be tempted to lower water quality standards in an attempt to lure industry. Industry could play states off against each other on water quality standards, much as they currently do in seeking property tax breaks. Desperate for jobs, poorer communities would be especially vulnerable to exploitation.

States would be especially likely to relax standards at points where rivers form the state boundary or just upstream from where rivers cross state lines. Oregonians living along the Columbia would be especially threatened from upstream water pollution.

Who would profit? The ability to roll back standards would benefit the bottom line of industrial corporations. By restricting new, tougher standards, polluting industries wouldn't have to invest in new pollution control equipment or less toxic processes.

COST/BENEFIT REQUIREMENTS

Background Currently, states are given some flexibility to consider economic hardship when determining if a waterway should meet lower standards. In addition, EPA takes into account economic feasibility when setting national standards for toxic discharges. In general, however, the CWA establishes fishable and swimmable water as a goal of the nation, with only limited situations in which economic considerations can be used to justify failure to achieve this goal.

The Effect of H.R. 961: While ostensibly retaining the goal of clean water, H.R. 961 mandates that any new rule or guidance to implement the CWA be proven to "maximize net benefits to society" through cost/benefit analysis. Standards to ensure "fishable and swimmable" will have to meet the cost/benefit test. Similarly, versions of "Regulatory Reform" in the House and Senate would impose a strict cost/benefit standard on all major new federal regulations, including those necessary to implement the Clean Water Act.

The Impact on Oregon: Water quality standards would be revised downward unless it could be proven that the "benefits" of reducing illness and saving fish outweigh the costs of industrial compliance. The studies necessary to prove this are extremely expensive and time-consuming. Few are likely to be completed in an era of reduced budgets at both the state and federal levels. Industries will be free to bring legal challenges against any rule for which this process has not been followed. Oregon's already degraded waterways, roughly 15,000 miles, would probably never improve.

Cost/benefit studies are also notoriously subjective. What is the "benefit" of reducing illness from water-borne contaminants? What is the "benefit" of allowing an eight year old child to take a dip in a lake on a hot summer day? What is the value to the region of abundant waterfowl dependent upon wetlands? What is the "benefit" of reducing our exposure to carcinogens, such as dioxin?

H.R. 961 and Regulatory Reform efforts presume that it is possible and wise to put a dollar value on human life and health, as well as the health of our ecosystems

More importantly, even if costs do exceed benefits, as measured in strictly economic terms, it is still morally inexcusable to allow an industry to knowingly dump cancer-causing toxins into the water.

Who would profit? Industrial polluters would increase profits as water quality standards were suspended or relaxed. In some cases, new factories or mills could be constructed that would pollute waterways already known to violate water quality standards, making unhealthy rivers (like the Willamette) worse.

SCIENTIFIC WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Background With federal oversight, the CWA directs states to set water quality standards (e.g. pollution concentrations) with the aim of attaining and/or protecting "fishable and swimmable" waterways. In establishing these standards, the state first decides what the "beneficial uses" are of the river e.g. swimming, fishing, etc. It then must utilize a **scientific** process in ensuring the standards set will protect the beneficial use.

The Effect of H.R. 961: H.R. 961 introduces a host of non-scientific factors into the process so that the final water quality standard need not necessarily protect the beneficial use. In Oregon, the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) would be encouraged to include undefined "economic and social considerations" when setting standards. DEQ would be required to calculate the "costs of compliance" for newly adopted water quality criteria.

The Impact on Oregon The process for reviewing water quality standards would become more time-consuming, politicized, and expensive. Corporate lobbyists would have new opportunities to use their political influence to weaken water quality standards.

Who would profit? Industrial polluters who would save money from reduced pollution control efforts.

POLLUTION CONTROL TECHNOLOGIES

Background: The CWA requires that all point source waste effluent be treated with the "best available technology" that is "economically achievable." Like most everything – from running shoes to airplanes – new technology usually means improved performance. The same is true of pollution control equipment. In 1972, Congress chose to use technology-based discharge standards in the CWA because experience solely with instream water quality standards had proven them a failure as a stand-alone requirement.

The Effect of H.R. 961 H.R. 961 would require, with few exceptions, that polluting industries would only have to use "best conventional technology" to treat toxic waste effluent. The seemingly trivial change from the word "available" to "conventional" means that new pollution control technology will not be rapidly adopted by industry.

Under H.R. 961, industry slackers, not innovators, will determine what pollution control technologies are installed in factories.

"Regulatory Reform," such as H.R. 9 or S 343, would also make it far more difficult and expensive for EPA to update technology standards as technology develops. In addition, S 343 would allow industries to petition to eliminate existing technology standards, with the petition granted unless EPA could prove that benefits of the technology standard outweigh the cost.

The Impact on Oregon Even if affordable, polluting industries wouldn't have to use newer, more effective treatment methods or processes. With few exceptions, the discharge of toxic chemicals into Oregon's waterways would not be reduced. For example, both the Willamette and Columbia Rivers violate standards for dioxin. Less dioxin-forming processes do exist. If H.R. 961 had been law as recently as three years ago, the Oregon DEQ could not have ordered paper mills to convert to less dioxin-producing processes.

Who would profit? By not having to buy new equipment, industrial and manufacturing industries would save money. In Oregon, the pulp and paper industry would probably reap the greatest savings.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS

Background In the 1960s, Governor McCall required secondary treatment of Sewage Treatment Plants and paper mill effluent. Secondary treatment removes some of most pollutants and, through biological processes, removes the majority of pollutants that lower oxygen levels in waterways. Fish and other aquatic animals benefit, as do recreational and commercial anglers. Requiring secondary treatment, more than any other single step, led to the "cleaning up" of the Willamette River.

The CWA requires a basic level of "secondary treatment" for human sewage. Currently, some ocean discharging Sewage Treatment Plants can obtain a waiver for secondary treatment, but only if lesser treatment can still protect the environment.

The Effect of H.R. 961: H R 961 vastly expands the number of Sewage Treatment Plants which can receive a waiver from secondary treatment requirements when discharging into the ocean.

H R 961 also allows Sewage Treatment Plants serving 10,000 or fewer to forego secondary treatment, so long as they provide "adequate protection," a term not defined by H R 961. This waiver would apply even if the sewage treatment system accepts toxic industrial wastes. The City of St Helens, for example, accepts toxic effluent from Boise Cascade.

The Impact on Oregon The vast majority of Oregon cities Sewage Treatment Plants provide secondary treatment. Many of these could be allowed to return to only primary treatment, depending on how the courts interpret the undefined term "adequate level of protection." Years of litigation will likely ensue to determine the meaning of this term. If adequate protection is found to be something less than secondary treatment, pollution levels of all kinds would increase, while oxygen levels would decrease. Lacking dilution ability, smaller Oregon rivers would be at greatest risk. If oxygen levels drop, fish could be injured, killed, or wiped out. Dangerous amounts of toxic chemicals could increasingly concentrate in Oregon's fish and wildlife. Chemically tainted fish and reproduction problems in wildlife are examples of possible problems. Current examples already include unsafe dioxin concentrations in Columbia River sturgeon and reproduction failures in Columbia River eagles and otters. These types of problems would likely become more widespread.

Who would profit? Smaller communities would save construction and/or operating costs for their Sewage Treatment Plants, while pushing the negative impact onto downstream communities. Industrial polluters that dispose of their waste through municipal Sewage Treatment Plants would also benefit.

POLLUTED RUNOFF (NON-POINT SOURCE) ROLLBACKS AND SUBSIDIES

Background The CWA has had its greatest success in reducing "point" sources of pollution, e.g. those sources for which there is an identifiable pipe through which a pollutant flows into a water body. Most of our remaining pollution problems stem from "non-point" sources, e.g. polluted runoff from farms, forestry operations, and urban areas.

The CWA's existing non-point source control mechanisms are weak and largely unenforceable. However, in some cases, the CWA does provide tools which can be used to require landowners to follow "best management practices." In addition, communities of over 100,000 in Oregon (Metro-Portland, Salem, and Eugene) have recently begun to assess and address polluted urban runoff, as required by EPA.

The Effect of H.R. 961: H.R. 961 extends the deadline for progress in controlling non-point pollution by 20 years, and eliminates the state's already limited ability to enforce "best management practices." It also entirely repeals the CWA's "stormwater permitting system" for urban areas. Additionally, H.R. 961 authorizes vast increases in funding (\$300 million in FY 2000) for runoff control programs, all of which would go directly to agribusinesses and timber companies. There is no accountability attached to these monies.

The largest remaining pollution threat to the Willamette River is runoff from agriculture and urban areas. H.R. 961 effectively eliminates the CWA as a tool for cleaning up this form of pollution.

The Impact on Oregon: The continued restoration of Oregon's water quality would be placed in jeopardy. Oregon rivers impacted by farming (like the Willamette) and forestry (like the Rogue) would likely not improve for decades, if ever. Meanwhile, large amounts of taxpayer moneys would be given to agribusiness and timber companies with no strings attached to ensure they are taking steps that reduce polluted runoff.

Who would profit? Agribusiness and timber companies will increase profits by putting off for years the implementation of pollution prevention practices. Yet, they would be eligible to receive huge sums of taxpayers money for steps they are, in many instances, already taking.

WETLANDS

Background By filtering runoff for sediment, metabolizing nutrients and providing habitat to fish and their prey, wetlands serve a crucial role in aquatic health. Wetlands also absorb flood waters, reducing flood damage.

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Wetlands are protected under Section 404 of the CWA. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers administers a permit program under Section 404 for the filling or removal of wetlands. The EPA sets standards, comments on fill permit applications, and holds veto power over Army Corps decisions. Regulations are intended to protect, minimize destruction of, and mitigate the impacts to wetlands from urban and rural development.

The vast majority of fill requests are granted. In addition, ongoing farming operations are exempt from Section 404 regulations. (However, farmers that convert wetlands to cropland face losing their federal farm subsidies under the swamp provisions of various farm bills.)

The Effect of H.R. 961: H.R. 961 eliminates the current Section 404 program and replaces it with an entirely different set of provisions. The bill redefines wetlands through a non-scientific definition which the National Academy of Sciences has criticized in a recent report. According to the National Association of State Wetlands Managers, 60-80% of wetlands would instantly lose their CWA protection based on the change in definition.

Nearly three-quarters of Oregon's wetlands would instantly lose the legal protection provided by the CWA.

Those wetlands protected under the new CWA, would be ranked under a 3-tier system. The bottom third would be deregulated, the middle third would be loosely regulated, and only the top tier would be protected with regulations similar to those currently in place. When top tier regulations are found to reduce a landowner's property value more than 20%, the landowner would be entitled to "special compensation" (takings), costing the taxpayers millions of dollars. The EPA would lose its oversight role and veto powers. In addition, gravel mining companies, natural gas pipeline companies, railroad and other industries would be given special exemptions from wetlands regulations.

Separate legislation pending in the Senate (S 851) would enact provisions virtually identical to H.R. 961's with regard to wetlands.

The Impact on Oregon: A July 1995 study by the Army Corps of Engineers concluded that 74% of Oregon's wetlands would instantly lose all CWA protection under H.R. 961 or S 851. Much of what remains would retain only weak protection. Where protection does occur, taxpayers would have to pay landowners, even if the owners purchased the land with full knowledge that the wetlands could not be filled.

The result: Oregon's waterways would suffer from increased pollution and fish and wildlife would reproduce in smaller numbers. As a result, Oregon's commercial and recreational anglers would

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have fewer fish to catch and hunters would have fewer ducks and geese to shoot Oregonians would pay more to treat drinking water During floods, water levels would get higher, damaging houses and property that would otherwise have been unaffected. More species will become endangered, costing all Oregonians either huge amounts of money or a damaged ecosystem

Who would profit?: Development speculators, oil companies, agribusiness, and other industries given special exemptions

WASTE WATER DISCHARGE PERMITS

Background Industrial dischargers and Sewage Treatment Plants must have discharge permits Discharge permits must be renewed every 5 years Permitted discharges must not violate water quality standards The permit renewal process is often the time when requirements are stiffened based on new technological developments Permit renewal also offers one of the few opportunities for the public scrutiny of an industry's discharge practices

The Effect of H.R. 961 H.R. 961 lengthens the times between permit renewal to once every ten years In addition, under H.R. 961, violations of water quality standards would be deemed "statistical noncompliance" if the polluter could provide a supposedly compensating offset, such as a recycling program or a decrease in air emissions

The Impact on Oregon: The entire base philosophy of "fishable and swimmable" waters is tossed out The public would have no guarantee water quality standards would be met since individual point source dischargers could violate such standards by reducing some other form of pollution Oregon's waterways would be subject to being poisoned, both statistically and literally, while potentially eliminating both fishing and swimming in affected communities

The longer time period between permit applications would slow down the process of requiring industries to adopt new pollution control technologies, and would lessen the public's ability to influence pollution levels in their community

Who would profit? Industrial polluters would save money by not having to buy anti-pollution equipment

ANTIDegradation

Background The CWA contains an anti-degradation policy to prevent degradation of pristine waters. New pollution discharges cannot degrade these very clean waterways. New permits cannot be less strict than existing permits.

The Effect of H.R. 961: H.R. 961 creates exceptions to the antidegradation policy. Higher pollution loads and degradation of existing uses, such as drinking water, are allowed if there are reductions in solid waste or air emissions, or if there is a watershed plan.

The Impact on Oregon Oregon's most pristine waterways, such as the N. Santiam, Upper McKenzie, and Clackamas, could be left without special protection. These, and other pristine waterways in Oregon, could become polluted, harming fish and potentially increasing drinking water filtration costs for communities such as Salem, Lake Oswego, Eugene, and Springfield.

Who would profit? Polluters who can implement cheaper offset programs unrelated to water quality. Land speculators seeking rapid growth in pristine watersheds.

Conclusion

The CWA has played a key role in forcing Oregon to reduce water pollution and to protect the health of its waterways. Waterbodies like Tillamook Bay, the Columbia Slough, and the Columbia, Willamette, Umpqua, Yamhill, and Tualatin Rivers, are all far cleaner today because of the CWA.

H R 961 would eliminate many of the tools the state has utilized in its fight for clean waters. Related legislation, such as "Regulatory Reform," would also make it more difficult for the state or Federal government to force polluters to reduce their pollution levels.

Even as the government's ability to clean up the water goes down, water polluters would gain new tools they can use in fighting the state's pollution reduction efforts. While we are unlikely to return entirely to the days when the Willamette was little more than an open sewer, we are likely to see the steady erosion of the public's right to clean water, and a steady degradation of water quality. Other Oregon rivers would share the same fate. Every Oregonian would be affected.

- Tourism would drop as Oregon waterways become less scenic and increasingly polluted.
- Recreational and commercial anglers and their support industries would lose money and jobs as habitat is destroyed and poisoned.
- Boat sales and service businesses would lose money and jobs.
- Municipal drinking water filtration costs would increase.
- Summers would never be the same again for 3,000,000 Oregonians as many beaches and rivers become unpleasant and unsafe for recreation.
- Increased pollution and habitat destruction would lead to the reduction and possible extermination of native trout and salmon populations.
- Waterfowl, otter, beaver, eagle, osprey, and other species would suffer population losses due to habitat loss and poisoning from the anticipated increase of toxic chemical discharges.

APPENDIX A

OREGON'S WATERS

WATER QUALITY

According to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's 1994 Water Quality Assessment Report to EPA

- 31% percent Oregon's stream miles have been assessed or monitored
- 6,437 miles of Oregon's streams fail to meet state water quality standards for swimming and/or fishing
- An additional 8,703 miles of Oregon's streams only partially meet state water quality standards for swimming and/or fishing
- The lower 148 river miles of the Willamette River violate water quality standards for dioxin
- All Oregon river miles of the Columbia River violate water quality standards for dioxin
- Fish and shellfish consumption advisories have been issued for 7 Oregon waterways

SEWAGE BYPASSES AND COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOWS

According to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

- More than twenty Oregon municipal sewage systems bypassed raw sewage during heavy rains in 1994
- Astoria, Corvallis and Portland have combined sewer overflows, which discharge a mixture of storm water and raw sewage into local rivers nearly every time it rains
- Portland discharges an annual average of 6 billion gallons of raw combined sewage

LEAKS IN THE CLEAN WATER ACT

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's 1994 Toxic Release Inventory

- In 1992, 507,540 pounds of toxic compounds were discharged directly into Oregon waterways
- In 1992, 4,275,478 pounds of toxic compounds were discharged into public sewage treatment systems in Oregon

Sewage treatment plants are not designed to treat toxic compounds

DRINKING WATER

According to the Oregon Health Division

- 78% of Oregonians obtain drinking water from surface waterways

According to the Natural Resource Defense Council (*Think Before You Drink Update 1992-1993*)

- In 1992-93, Oregon Community Water Systems experienced 1,731 violations. These systems provided drinking water for 706,000 Oregonians

According to a report on waterborne diseases by the Oregon Health Division

- In 1992, 1247 Oregonians were reported as having contracted Giardiasis
- In 1992, 885 Oregonians were reported as having contracted Campylobacteriosis

WASTING WETLANDS

- In 1780, Oregon had an estimated 2,262,000 acres of wetlands
- As of 1994, Oregon has 1,393,900 acres of wetlands, a net loss of 38%¹

¹ Fisheries, Wetlands, and Jobs: The Value of Wetlands to America's Fisheries, William Kier, March 1994

APPENDIX B

NATIONAL WATER FIGURES

TWENTY-THREE YEARS AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT

According to a 1993 report, Testing the Waters, by the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC)

- EPA-crafted pollution control standards have reduced releases of toxic pollutants into U S waterways by more than 1 billion pounds each year
- Almost 200 million pounds of toxic pollutants are still dumped into U S waterways each year
- In 1993, there were 2,438 beach closings or advisories, due primarily to raw sewage discharges¹

According to the Council on Environmental Quality¹

- In 1970, the sewage of 42% of Americans was being adequately treated prior to discharge
- In 1988, the sewage of 58% of Americans was being adequately treated prior to discharge
- The U S population has grown by over 50 million since the Clean Water Act was passed in 1972

According to EPA's 1992 National Water Quality Inventory report to Congress

- In 1993, there were 1,279 fish consumption warnings in effect in 47 states

AMERICANS ENJOY CLEAN WATER

- In 1985, American's took 870 million trips for fishing and over 30 million trips just to visit these waters²

¹ Twenty-First Annual Report (1990) at 303,309

² U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1985 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation (1988) at 14, 44

- In 1987, American's took 461 million trips to swim in lakes and oceans and 220 million trips for motor boating³
- In 1993, over 180 million people went to ocean, bay or Great Lakes beaches⁴
- Each year, people take over 1.5 billion trips to enjoy America's waters

According to a 1992 report by the Environmental Protection Agency⁵

- 25% of U S adults fish for pleasure
- In 1985, these anglers spent \$28 billion

According to a joint report by several federal agencies⁶

- In 1993, the value of fish landings amounted to \$3.5 billion
- In 1990, Americans spent \$38.1 billion for fisheries products
- In 1990, the marine fishing industry contributed \$18.8 billion of value added to the U S Gross National Product

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

- In 1985, shellfishers spent \$2.3 billion

According to NRDC's 1993 report

- The annual U S coastal tourism industry exceeds \$80 billion

³ R Sampson, & D Hair, Natural Resources for the Twenty-First Century, American Forestry Association (1990) at 261

⁴ NRDC, Testing the Waters IV, the Unsolved Problem of U S Beach Pollution (August 1994) at 7

⁵ Clean Water and the American Economy, at 14

⁶ US Dep't of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Fisheries of the United States, 1993 (May 1994) at iv, v



35432

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF PORTLAND

Inspiring people to love and protect nature

8/9/95

Mayor Katz and Commissioners
City Hall
1220 SW Fifth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Katz and Commissioners,

When I travel around the country I am consistently asked why Portland has been so successful in the creation of public policies that protect our quality of life. I give many reasons, but one I am very proud of our good fortune to have the leadership and political will to enact develop, and implement, policies that will make this a better place to live

Clean water is our most reliable bellwether for the future health of our region. No single environmental issue is a higher priority than protecting our water. A Greenspaces campaign survey found that the protection and restoration of water quality was the primary reason, by 80% of the respondents, to protect Greenspaces

Clean water is essential to the public, ecological---and economic---health of our region. It would be easy for the City of Portland to sit back and let those who do not understand that dynamic in Washington, D C gut the Clean Water Act. In the short term, that might make your job easier. However, over the long term we will have lost one of the most essential elements of our regional livability, and those who follow you will pay an even higher price, both economic and political

You may recall a front cover photo that appeared in *The Oregonian* a number of years ago---a fellow dressed in suit and tie---with a grin that wouldn't quit---holding a 30 pound salmon, standing in his small boat, with the downtown Portland skyline in the background. That photo made the rounds throughout the United States. It spoke volumes about why we all love living in this city. It was also the most powerful economic development promotion piece I have ever seen. No Nike ad could match its powerful message. Clean water is just as crucial to our region's future social, environmental and economic success as an efficient, multi-modal transportation system, a comprehensive parks and Greenspaces system and livable neighborhoods. Commissioner Lindberg is to be commended for bringing this resolution to Council and I want to thank you all for doing the right thing in passing this resolution. I am proud that the City of Portland is taking a national leadership role in the water quality arena

Sincerely,

RESOLUTION No

35432

Declare Portland City Council opposition to excessive changes to the Clean Water Act as proposed in H R 961, *The Clean Water Act Reauthorization of 1995*. (Resolution)

WHEREAS, on May 16th, 1995 the U S House of Representatives passed H R 961 - *The Clean Water Act Reauthorization Bill of 1995*, which significantly weakens the water quality protection now in force as part of the current Clean Water Act, and

WHEREAS, H R 961 if signed into law would result in curtailment of current and future efforts to reduce water pollution from urban, industrial and agricultural runoff, which according to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality are now the most significant causes of degraded water quality in the nation, and

WHEREAS, H R 961 would also significantly reduce existing protection for the nation's wetlands which provide numerous important environmental functions including filtration and clean-up of water pollution, flood storage, critical fish and wildlife habitat and groundwater recharge, and

WHEREAS, non-point source and stormwater pollution remain a major source of pollution in our state's rivers and streams H R 961 fails to adequately address non-point source issues and would repeal the federal stormwater permit process

WHEREAS, Portland ratepayers and residents have indicated, time and again, strong support of environmental efforts in the area of water quality, have made substantial investments in clean water, and have committed to additional expenditures in the upcoming years

WHEREAS, HR 961 puts the investment at risk because clean water in Portland is dependent on activities elsewhere in the watershed

WHEREAS, survey's indicate the residents of the City of Portland consistently support efforts to protect and enhance water quality in our rivers and streams The Portland Metropolitan area is home to more than 40 watershed councils and friends groups devoted to the cause of water quality

WHEREAS, the U S Senate is about to begin consideration of its own version of the Clean Water Act Reauthorization

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Portland Oregon declares opposition to excessive changes to the Clean Water Act as proposed in H R 961 - *The Clean Water Act Reauthorization of 1995*, and urges members of the U S Senate to retain levels of water quality and wetlands protection similar to those contained in the current version of the Federal Clean Water Act

Adopted by the Council
Commissioner Mike Lindberg
Dean Marriott
4 August, 1995

AUG 09 1995

BARBARA CLARK
Auditor of the City

By

Britta Olson
Deputy

Title

Declare Portland City Council opposition to excessive changes to the Clean Water Act as proposed in H R. 961 -- The Clean Water Act Reauthorization of 1995 (Resolution)

INTRODUCED BY	DATE FILED AUG 4 1995
Commissioner Mike Lindberg	Barbara Clark Auditor of the City of Portland
NOTED BY COMMISSIONER	By <u>Cory Krishna</u> Deputy For Meeting of _____ ACTION TAKEN:
Affairs	
Finance and Administration	
Safety	
Utilities MDL/LAD	
Works	
BUREAU APPROVAL	
Bureau Office of Public Utilities	
Prepared by Date Linda Dobson 8/4/95	
Budget Impact Review <input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Required	
Bureau Head Commissioner Mike Lindberg	

AGENDA		FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS		
				YEAS	NAYS
Consent	Regular <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blumenauer	Blumenauer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
NOTED BY		Haies	Haies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
City Attorney		Kafoury	Kafoury	<input type="checkbox"/>	
City Auditor		Lindberg	Lindberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
City Engineer		Katz	Katz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	