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To: All members, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
RE: “America’s Commitment to Clean Water Act”

April 21, 2010

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of Property Rights Alliance, I am writing to express concern over Representative Oberstar’s “America’s Commitment to Clean Water Act” which was introduced today. **This bill would infringe on the rights of property owners across the nation and result in an unprecedented expansion of the regulatory authority of the federal government.**

Permitting federal jurisdiction over every body of water in America will not ensure the cleanliness of these waters, but merely serve as another bureaucratic barrier for citizens who wish to use land for development. The amended version of the Clean Water Act of 1972 will hinder American economic growth, forcing developers to wait for bureaucrats in Washington to issue building permits. Farmers and ranchers also worry that the new legislation means Congress can dictate how they can correctly tend their crops and livestock in order to “protect the waters” near their land.

To make matters worse, Rep. Oberstar has enacted these changes in spite of two Supreme Court cases: *Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. United States Army Corps of Engineers (2001)* and *Rapanos v. United States (2006)*. These cases clearly stated that the reach of the federal government does not extend to all waters, and that by attempting to do so, the federal government is overstepping its boundaries.

The Property Rights Alliance encourages every member of the Committee to please protect the property rights of your constituents all across America by voting against Rep. Oberstar’s proposed legislation. Congress should never have the authority to dictate how citizens may utilize their own private land.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Zahourek
Executive Director