

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1801

August 17, 2007

Dear Colleague:

**Join the Bi-Partisan House Water Caucus as an
Original Member**

Co-Chairs: John Linder (R-GA), Jim Costa (D-CA), George Radanovich (R-CA),
Bart Stupak (D-MI), Grace Napolitano (D-CA)

Original Members: George Miller (D-CA), Alcee Hastings (D-FL), Joe Baca (D-CA),
Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD), Ciro Rodriguez (D-TX), Dennis Cardoza (D-CA), Ken
Calvert (R-CA), Shelley Berkley (D-NV), Silvestre Reyes (D-TX), Ruben Hinojosa
(D-TX), Michael Conaway (R-TX), Ellen Tauscher (D-CA), Earl Blumenauer (D-
OR), John Lewis (D-GA), Pete Hoekstra (R-MI), Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD), John
Shadegg (R-AZ), Doug Lamborn (R-CO), Brian Bilbray (R-CA), John Doolittle (R-
CA), Stevan Pearce (R-NM), Jerry McNerney (D-CA), Steve Kagen (D-WI), Loretta
Sanchez (D-CA), Virgil Goode (R-VA), Barbara Cubin (R-WY), Lucille Roybal-Allard
(D-CA), Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), and Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ).

Mikhail Gorbachev, while serving as the president of a global non-profit working to foster a sustainable future, wrote for the magazine of the U.S. Library of Congress, in 2000, that “water, not unlike religion and ideology, has the power to move millions of people. Since the very birth of human civilization, people have moved to settle close to water. People move when there is too little of it; people move when there is too much of it. People move on it. People write and sing and dance and dream about it. People fight over it. And everybody, everywhere and every day, needs it. We need water for drinking, for cooking, for washing, for food, for industry, for energy, for transport, for rituals, for fun, for life. And it is not only we humans who need it; all life is dependent upon water for its very survival.”

The establishment of a Congressional Water Caucus will allow Members of Congress committed to the goals of promoting dialogue about our nation’s water issues to have a meaningful educational venue and forum about how best to realize those goals. The Congressional Water Caucus will aim to provide timely, scientific information and dialogue about water resources and water use.

“The Twelve Principles of Water Policy”

- Ensure an adequate supply of fresh water for U.S. citizens, securing a sufficient water supply for both urban and rural areas;
- Consider all available technologies for increasing water supply efficiently, while safeguarding the environment, including the use of best management practices;
- Recommend a means of capturing and storing excess water for future droughts;
- Implement strategies to improve water use efficiencies and reduce water waste;
- Support adequate funding to implement water re-use strategies wherever appropriate;
- Advocate the coordination of efforts by Congress, the President, and state and local government to solve water issues;
- Consolidate and streamline efforts between local, state, and Federal government agencies to reduce the bureaucratic red tape many local communities face when trying to build water reservoirs and other infrastructure needs;
- Protect the rights of state and local governments;
- Suggest financing options for new public works water projects;
- Encourage Federal assistance to state and local governments to identify potential groundwater banking as part of sustainable water supplies;
- Recognize international implications for water resources shared with other nations; and
- Collect and share data related to water use and water quality to determine effectiveness of policy.

If you would like to become an original member of the House Water Caucus, or have any questions about the Caucus, please contact Ms. Valentina Valenta in Congressman Linder’s office at 5-4272, Mr. Tom Wanley in Congressman Costa’s office at 5-3341, Mr. Jamie Euken in Congressman Stupak’s office at 5-4735, Ms. Lacey Kiriakou in Congressman Radanovich’s office at 5-4540, or Mr. Daniel Chao in Congresswoman Napolitano’s office at 5-5256.

Sincerely,

JOHN LINDER
Member of Congress

JIM COSTA
Member of Congress

BART STUPAK
Member of Congress

GEORGE RADANOVICH
Member of Congress

GRACE NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress