

Update on Clean Water Protection Act, action-oriented water conservation

WHEATON—Ecologists and environmental advocates alike are promoting the proposed Clean Water Protection Act, HR 2169, sponsored by Rep. Frank Pallone, D-NJ, and Chris Shays, R-Conn. The bipartisan measure was penned to halt a steady stream of pollution in the nation's waterways, especially those most susceptible due to mining endeavors in the region of the Appalachian Mountain. The proposal's objective coincides with the Catholic Church's view on the environment and calls the faithful to be "good stewards" of God's creation.

Sierra Club experts noted in a statement supporting CWPA that "mountaintop-removal mining has contaminated more than 1,200 miles of streams in Appalachia." At the same time, mountaintop removal operations in a search for coal have been blamed for destroying 2,000-plus peaks since 2002 when the Bush administration reversed a previous policy that prohibited the dumping of mining waste into waterways.

The Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation organization is in agreement with advocates of the revised CWPA, arguing in favor of restoring aspects of the original clean water bill, which was passed in 1977.

Environmental and citizens groups such as Sierra Club, National Wildlife Federation, and Natural Resources Defense Fund have collaborated to support the measure.

To take action, follow link:

www.paxjoliet.org/advocacy/2007/clean_water_protection_act_052207.htm.

Bottled water losing its popularity

In restaurants and private homes alike, filtered water has become a rising star over bottled water products in the battle to conserve water. The result has been a ban on bottled water by environmentally conscious entities. San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom in March banned city departments from buying bottled water. Newsom along with Mayor R. T. Rybak of Minneapolis and Salt Lake City's Mayor Rocky Anderson were credited for introducing an environmentally-conscious resolution at the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Click link to view resolution <http://www.stopcorporateabuse.org/cms/page1530.cfm>. According to a statement on the Franciscan Corporate Accountability International blog, the resolution charges analysts to study the impact of bottled water on city waste. Meanwhile, one restaurateur in Sausalito, Calif., has switched operations in favor of relying solely on filtered water.

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