

Press Release



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For Immediate Release

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Landmark Legislation Introduced to Improve America's Waters

December 16, 2005 - ALEXANDRIA, VA – The American Sportfishing Association (ASA) applauds the landmark legislation introduced by Chairman John J. Duncan, Jr. (R-TN) of the House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee to address America's growing infrastructure funding crisis. *The Clean Water Trust Act of 2005* (H.R. 4560) will provide \$7.35 billion annually to improve America's waters.

The Clean Water Trust Act will:

- help urban and rural communities protect public health and the environment by restoring the federal-state-local financial partnership necessary to achieve the goals of the Clean Water Act ;
- create a dedicated, deficit-neutral Clean Water Trust Fund, similar to those that successfully finance highways and airports;
- address the U.S. EPA's estimated clean water funding gap \$300-500 billion; and
- guarantee that over 30 years of water quality progress under the Clean Water Act is continued

"The Chairman has demonstrated his clear commitment to the health of the nation's fishery resources and the nation's treasured waterways by introducing this bill," said Gordon C. Robertson, ASA's vice president. "For years, the American Sportfishing Association and the nation's other leading recreational fishing and marine conservation organizations have sought language to further reduce non-point source pollution and improve upon the success of the original Clean Water Act." Robertson further said, "Chairman Duncan, by introducing this legislation, has made a serious commitment to an innovative and practical approach to improving water quality which has a direct impact on healthy fish populations for the nation's 44 million anglers."

The Clean Water Trust Act will enhance fisheries through controlling sewer overflows, improving wetlands, encouraging research, spurring new technologies, enhancing investment in small and rural utilities and protecting critical regional waters such as the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay and Gulf of Mexico.

Supporters of the legislation include: American Sportfishing Association, Associated General Contractors of America, National Association of Towns and Townships, Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Ducks Unlimited, Western Coalition of Arid States, American Society of Civil Engineers, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, American Council of Engineering Companies, Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Trout Unlimited, American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association, Design Build Institute of America, Construction

Management Association of America, American Supply Association, Plastics Pipe Institute, Underground Contractors Association, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

There is an aggressive grassroots campaign, via a new Web site dedicated to supporting H.R. 4560, and a renewed federal investment in clean water called Clean Water America (www.cleanwateramerica.org). Over one hundred organizations and thousands of individuals from coast-to-coast have already joined Clean Water America and have signed the Clean Water America petition calling for a significant new federal investment in clean water.

The American Sportfishing Association is the sportfishing industry's trade association, uniting more than 650 members of the sportfishing and boating industries with state fish and wildlife agencies, federal land and water management agencies, conservation organizations, angler advocacy groups and outdoor journalists. The American Sportfishing Association safeguards and promotes the enduring social, economic and conservation values of sportfishing.