



ACTION ALERT: Tell Your Senators to VOTE NO on Dirty Water Bills!

Capitol Hill is busy assaulting environmental laws that protect your drinking water and your local waterways. Right now, the US House of Representatives is debating multiple bills to gut the Clean Water Act.

I'm asking for your help to stop these bills.

The Clean Water Act (CWA) is important for many reasons. Here are two:

- it creates National standards for water quality and prevents states from sending their pollution downriver to neighboring states
- it guarantees regular citizens (and groups like Potomac Riverkeeper) will be heard when they try to improve local water quality

One of the most outrageous assaults on the CWA has been HR 2018, the so-called Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011. It is probably the boldest attempt we have seen in years to dismantle the CWA.

HR 2018, which we are calling the "Dirty Water Bill," passed out of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee on June 22nd with no public

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Reaching Out in the Valley: Agricultural Project Surveys its 1,000th Farm!

Our Green Farms, Clean Rivers Program had a major development this spring, with Agricultural Project Manager Alan Lehman reporting that he has surveyed his 1,000th farm in the Shenandoah Valley. Alan has surveyed roughly one out of every eight farms in the Valley, and is a leading expert in Shenandoah Valley agricultural practices.

Nobody has done more extensive research and knows the range of farm conditions better. Impressive, right? And the kicker is: he's only been at it for 1½ years.

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On the River



Ed Merrifield
President
& Potomac
Riverkeeper



Jeff Kelble
Shenandoah
Riverkeeper



Brent Walls
Upper
Potomac River
Manager



Alan Lehman
Agricultural
Project
Manager

DC Team

Robin Broder
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Communications & Outreach
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debate. On July 17th, HR 2018 passed the full House 239 to 184.

Many of you answered our call to action during the lead up to the July 17th vote. We sent over 100 letters to the House through our website (potomacriverkeeper.org/dirtywater). Thank you for those letters.

The House ultimately passed the Dirty Water Bill, but all is not lost. Two House Republicans in our area—Frank Wolf (VA-10) and Robert Wittman (VA-1)—actually voted AGAINST the Bill, as did most Democrats. Potomac Riverkeeper members sent letters to both representatives.

It is unclear what the Senate will do now that HR 2018 has passed the House, but we're hearing more dirty water bills will soon be on the way.

Our website potomacriverkeeper.org/dirtywater has the latest information and an easy way to send a letter to your Senators. Please let your Senators know NOW that a vote for polluter-friendly bills is a vote for dirty water.

“One of the most outrageous assaults on the Clean Water Act has been HR 2018.

It is probably the boldest attempt we have seen in years to dismantle the Clean Water Act.”

—Ed Merrifield, President

Urge them to VOTE NO on HR 2018 and any other dirty water bills that come to the Senate floor.

I normally stay out of beltway politics, but these actions threaten average citizens' seat at the table, and they threaten those of us working at the community level to enforce the laws that Congress itself passed to protect the health of our rivers and streams and our drinking water.

Don't let them turn back the clock. Don't let them jeopardize the health of your family. Take action now and send a letter to your Senators at potomacriverkeeper.org/dirtywater!

Raising Funds & Recognizing Good Work!

Potomac River Gala Raises \$64k for “Rapid Response Fund” and other programs



Rep. Jim Moran (VA-8) and Dr. Vicki Blazer

Thank you to everyone who came out to the House of Sweden and celebrated another great year in river restoration at our Potomac River Gala.

We would like to give a special thank you to Rep. Jim Moran (VA-8), who was able to attend and present our Protector of the Potomac award to Dr. Vicki Blazer from the US Geological Survey. It was tremendous honor! Awards were also given to Wendy & Steve Hudock, our volunteers of the year, for their work protecting a mountain, a river, and their historic town from a needless quarry. We also honored Mac Thornton, current chairman of the Board of Directors, for his 9 years of service to Potomac Riverkeeper.

We have posted a few pictures from the event on Facebook and Flickr.

Check them out! None of this would have been possible without the early and generous support of our 2011 Potomac River Gala Hosts! Please support businesses that help improve our local water quality!

Thank you again, see you next year!

“We’re going site by site and working to convince farmers to change the practices that hurt our water supply. We offer advice and financial assistance.”

—Alan Lehman, Agricultural Project Manager

Agricultural Project continued from page 1

During that short time, Alan and Shenandoah Riverkeeper Jeff Kelble have gone “site by site,” surveying farms and starting a dialogue about improving the bad practices that threaten the health of our water supply.

If Alan doesn’t see visible pollution problems at a given site, he moves on to the next site. The goal is to respect farmers’ privacy and only focus on the most obviously polluted sites. From there, Alan uses a variety of tools to improve water quality, saving the more stringent measures for the worst sites of the bunch.

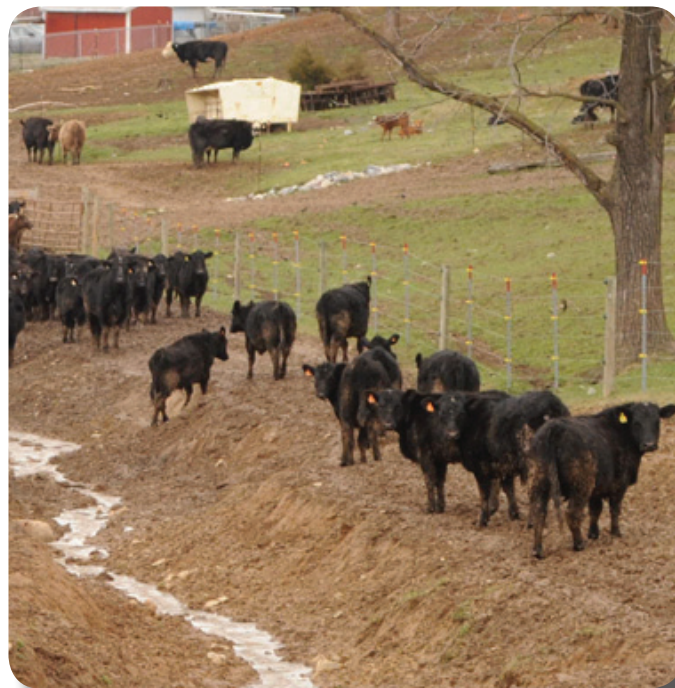
Probably the most stringent measure in Alan and Jeff’s repertoire is the Agricultural Stewardship Act (ASA). The ASA is a tool available to the general public and in place so residents can report pollution and call on Virginia’s Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) to investigate further.

Alan says Jeff recently filed 9 ASA reports and all of them were classified as “founded.” In layman’s terms, it means that the few farms reported were, in fact, bad (read: currently polluting or likely to pollute in the near future). VDACS will now require remediation at those farms to fix the problems.

Alan is making good use of the public participation tools that strengthen our democracy and improve our water supply. Keep up the great work, Alan!

Report Pollution!

Dial 301–POTOMAC
Online form: potomacriverkeeper.org



There are many runs and streams that cut through farms and drain into the Shenandoah River. On some farms (like the one pictured above), there is no buffer between the land and the stream, and raw animal manure enters our water supply.

There is no comprehensive screening process that identifies and removes all of the chemicals and pathogens in the manure.

Good Luck, Damien!

When you have heard from Potomac Riverkeeper over the past five years, either in our print newsletters, e-news, website or our Facebook and Twitter feeds, it is often coming from the passionate and convincing voice of our Potomac Riverkeeper's Communications and Outreach Specialist Damien Power. Damien has worked tirelessly to articulate and spread news of our efforts throughout the watershed. He will be leaving us at the end of August to pursue his MBA degree from the University of Maryland. With gratitude for all that he has done to build our organization and protect our rivers, we wish Damien the very best.



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RiverWatch

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Join us for the Shenandoah River Rodeo

**August 13th, 2011 | 4:00pm—8:00pm | VFW Post
1847 N. Royal Avenue | Front Royal, VA, 22630**

The Rodeo is a great way to get out and enjoy the Shenandoah Valley's best resource: the Shenandoah River! This year we'll have everything you've come to expect from a River Rodeo. Your tickets include:

- live music
- monster bbq
- beer and other drinks
- camping



You can also bid for a chance to fish with a professional guide during the day! Email jeff@shenandoahriverkeeper.org for more information. Minimum bid \$250. New this year—a raffle that includes a kayak, canoe and other great items!

Tickets for the Rodeo are on sale now! Just fill out the card below or go to shenandoahriverkeeper.org/rodeo! You can also find information online about **Riverfest**, a free event between **10am and 3pm** at the same location!

Shenandoah River Rodeo 2011

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please make checks payable to **Shenandoah RIVERKEEPER** and mail to:
1100 15th Street NW, 11th floor, Washington, DC 20005
Or visit www.shenandoahriverkeeper.org/rodeo to pay by credit card

I would like to purchase

___ 1 individual ticket x \$40
___ additional tickets x \$30
___ sponsor tickets x \$200 (4 tickets)
___ sponsor tickets x \$500 (6 tickets
and 2 spots with a fishing guide)

\$_____.00 Total

I can't make it, but I would like to make a
donation of \$_____.00!