

# Clean Water Restoration Act



NACD is a strong supporter of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and believes in the importance of enhancing and protecting the integrity of our nation's waters. Conservation districts across the country work to improve and protect this priceless resource through several Clean Water Act authorities, including Section 319 nonpoint source grants, stormwater permits and source water/drinking water protection. Districts work with state and local governments, agricultural producers, forest landowners, homeowners, and developers to address local water resource concerns and protect our streams, rivers, and lakes.

Recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions have limited the scope of the CWA. The Court held that federal jurisdiction over waters of the United States does not extend to wholly intrastate waters. This has sparked much debate regarding the federal government's role and jurisdiction in administering the CWA.

We believe the most effective administration of the CWA rests with a strong federal-state partnership. All entities, local, state and federal, must be completely engaged if we are to succeed in the important mission of keeping our waters clean. States can most effectively accomplish this task by managing waters wholly within their borders.

NACD is concerned with legislative proposals seeking to change the wording of the Clean Water Act from "navigable waters" to "waters of the United States." We are concerned by these attempts to eliminate the important leadership role currently played by states and local government in water management. NACD stands ready to assist landowners and state and local governments address local water resource concerns.

**Congress should not expand the jurisdictional reach of the CWA, and NACD opposes legislation that seeks to remove the term "navigable waters" from the CWA and replace it with "waters of the United States".**

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**National Association of Conservation Districts**