

# Support Clean Water: Don't Exempt Oil and Gas Companies from the Clean Water Act

The Chairmen's mark of the **Energy Bill** contains language to exempt oil and gas construction activities from Clean Water Act requirements to manage stormwater pollution that can damage lakes, rivers, and streams. Current law provides an exemption from stormwater controls for oil, gas and mining *operations*, but it does not include an exemption for *construction* activities. Disturbed soils and other pollutants, such as benzene and drilling oils, in stormwater runoff from oil and gas construction sites are contaminated discharges that are clearly not exempted by the Act.

The provision in the conference report would give the oil and gas industry a blanket exemption from limits on stormwater from construction activities that all other businesses have to follow. *Conferees even expanded the exemption contained in the House bill to explicitly exempt construction at oil and gas processing and transmission facilities as well as drilling sites from the law.*

The construction of thousands of miles of roads and pipelines, as well as drilling sites and other oil and gas development infrastructure should not be allowed to degrade water quality, ruin drinking water, or diminish fish habitat.

**The following organizations, representing millions of Americans across the country who value clean water, oppose giving the oil and gas industry this special interest exemption:**

<i>Audubon Society</i>	<i>Environmental Integrity</i>	<i>Northern Plains Resource</i>
<i>American Rivers</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Council</i>
<i>Biodiversity Conservation</i>	<i>Friends of the Earth</i>	<i>Powder River Basin</i>
<i>Alliance</i>	<i>Greater Yellowstone</i>	<i>Resource Council</i>
<i>Californians for Western</i>	<i>Coalition</i>	<i>San Juan Citizens</i>
<i>Wilderness</i>	<i>Gulf Restoration</i>	<i>Alliance</i>
<i>Center for International</i>	<i>Network</i>	<i>Save the Dunes Council</i>
<i>Environmental Law</i>	<i>Izaak Walton League of</i>	<i>Sierra Club</i>
<i>Clean Ocean Action</i>	<i>America</i>	<i>Southern Utah</i>
<i>Clean Water Action</i>	<i>Jackson Hole</i>	<i>Wilderness Alliance</i>
<i>Coast Alliance</i>	<i>Conservation Alliance</i>	<i>The Ocean Conservancy</i>
<i>Colorado Environmental</i>	<i>League of Conservation</i>	<i>Trout Unlimited</i>
<i>Coalition</i>	<i>Voters</i>	<i>Western Colorado</i>
<i>Dakota Resource Council</i>	<i>National Environmental</i>	<i>Congress</i>
<i>Dakota Rural Action</i>	<i>Trust</i>	<i>Western Organization of</i>
<i>Defenders of Wildlife</i>	<i>National Wildlife</i>	<i>Resource Councils</i>
<i>Earthjustice</i>	<i>Federation</i>	<i>The Wilderness Society</i>
<i>Environment Colorado</i>	<i>Natural Resources</i>	<i>Union of Concerned</i>
<i>Forest Guardians</i>	<i>Defense Council</i>	<i>Scientists</i>
		<i>US PIRG</i>

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