

## STATE LEADERS PREPARE FOR 2012 SESSION

Contentious debate on Minnesota's current environmental protection standards filled the 2011 State Legislative Session. Legislative leaders used the state's deficit situation and "government reform" rhetoric in attempts to weaken environmental regulations, showing disappointing parallels to actions underway in Congress.

Although Clean Water Action and allies stopped some of the most extreme, destructive anti-environmental initiatives put forth in 2011, special interests and corporate polluters clearly found much support in both the State House and Senate. With help from Gov. Mark Dayton, bills to weaken water protections, lift the nuclear moratorium, and remove restrictions on new coal plants were all turned back. However, polluters were successful in exploiting loopholes to weaken environmental review laws and circumvent the permitting process. There is every reason to expect these attacks to continue in 2012.

When the state legislature convenes on January 24, Clean Water Action anticipates attacks on energy laws such as the renewable energy standard, emission standards for new coal plants and the state's science-based goal-setting to reduce climate-changing pollution. State water quality standards, regulations on agricultural pollution and dedicated water pollution cleanup funding will all be on the chopping block.

"Clean Water Action members' involvement will be key to defeating these extreme and irresponsible attacks on our water and our health again in 2012," says State Director Deanna White.

Protecting Minnesota's children from exposure to toxic chemicals remains a priority for Clean Water Action in 2012 as well. Although 2009's Toxic Free Kids Act has allowed the state to develop a list of the worst chemicals found in children's products, more specific information is needed on when the chemicals are used and at what levels. For example, although some crib sheets are now known to contain toxic formaldehyde, state agencies and consumers face serious challenges identifying which brands contain the chemical. Manufacturers are not yet required to disclose this information.

Clean Water Action will back legislation in 2012 to require manufacturers to disclose to state health and pollution control agencies the presence of toxic chemicals in products sold in Minnesota. This information can be used by parents and regulators to reduce children's exposure to toxic hazards in crib mattresses, formula can linings and toys.



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*from the Director*  
**Deanna White**

This is a high stakes moment in time for all of us who value clean air, safe drinking water and healthy communities. 2011 will be remembered as bringing some of the worst assaults on fundamental protections of our water, our air and our public health — ever. These trends lead me to believe 2012 could be even worse.

In just 10 months, the U.S. Congress has passed 170 votes on measures intended to weaken public health protections under the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act. Rather than support programs and policies that prevent pollution, they are encouraging pollution. Supporters of the Dirty Water proposals say these attacks are about “deregulation to create jobs and bolster our economy.” Not true. They are about increasing profits for a small number of the nation’s worst polluters. Period.

Unfortunately, the Minnesota Legislature seems to be following suit. Their efforts to weaken environmental reviews, energy policies and other environmental and health protections and to gut state agencies’ ability to enforce the law leave Minnesota vulnerable to more pollution and health harm.

Clean Water Action has been out in force making calls, knocking on doors and organizing in communities to ensure that these attacks don’t go unnoticed. Getting people informed and involved and applying direct pressure on the politicians are proving to be the best ways to stop these reckless anti-environmental actions.

We need you! Don’t sit on the sidelines and allow your elected officials to get away with doing whatever they are told by the polluters’ high paid lobbyists. Their job is to represent your best interests and to place those interests above those of the polluters. We need make sure they are held accountable for their decisions!

Our best defense is you!

**Deanna White**  
*Minnesota State Director*

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## ANNOUNCING THE CLEAN WATER CARD

Clean Water Action announces a new partnership with Capital One®.

Through this partnership, Clean Water Action and NJEF members and supporters applying for the **Clean Water Action VISA® credit card**, will be able to select between three different credit options to fit individual needs. Purchases made with your Clean Water Action VISA card will help support our Clean Water Action movement.



You can select between three great card art designs, and choose the credit option that you feel best meets your needs while showing your support for Clean Water Action. Great rewards, low introductory interest rate, or build your own credit — you decide.

Members who apply and qualify for the Rewards card will earn 1.25 miles for every \$1 spent on purchases with the card.

**This Clean Water Action VISA® card is the only credit card offered to support our cause. Apply today at [www.cleanwatercard.org](http://www.cleanwatercard.org)!**

# CONGRESS COULD WEAKEN PROTECTIONS AGAINST AQUATIC INVADERS

The U.S. House recently voted to push forward weak federal protections against ballast water discharges, a move favored by the shipping industry. The Coast Guard reauthorization measure approved by lawmakers includes federal rules that would be weaker than those in nearly every Great Lakes state. States would also be blocked from implementing additional ballast water protections, even if deemed necessary by the states to protect their waters.

Ships use water-filled ballast tanks to maintain stability. The water is often discharged into rivers or lakes far from where the water was first loaded. Water dumped from ballast tanks can carry living organisms. The practice is responsible for introducing invasive species such as zebra mussels, and spreading them from one lake to the next. Minnesota and six other Great Lakes states have protections aimed at preventing or slowing the spread of aquatic invaders. If the current House bill becomes law, all of these states would be forced to switch to weak federal regulations.

Minnesota Reps. Chip Cravaack and John Kline voted against amendments that would have left more protective state measures in place. The Duluth/Superior Harbor, located partially in Rep. Cravaack's district, receives more than 5 billion gallons of ballast water each year — more than any other freshwater port in the world. In spite of Lake Superior's distance from the St. Lawrence Seaway, 69 harmful species are found here, more than 30 of which are directly attributed to ballast water.

The US Senate's version of the Coast Guard reauthorization bill does not contain the harmful ballast water regulations. Differences between the bills will be resolved during a Conference Committee. Clean Water Action and allies will work to have the harmful ballast water regulations removed at that time. *Contact U.S. Sens. Klobuchar and Franken to ask them to protect the Great Lakes by keeping these harmful provisions out of the bill.*

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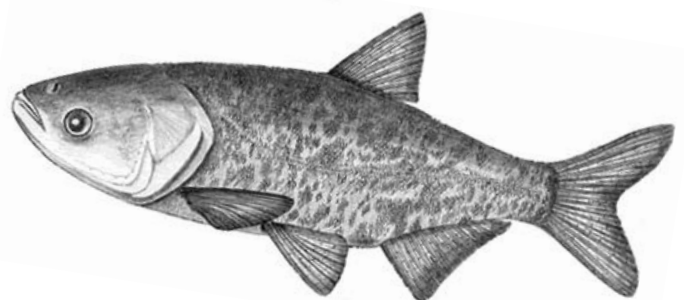
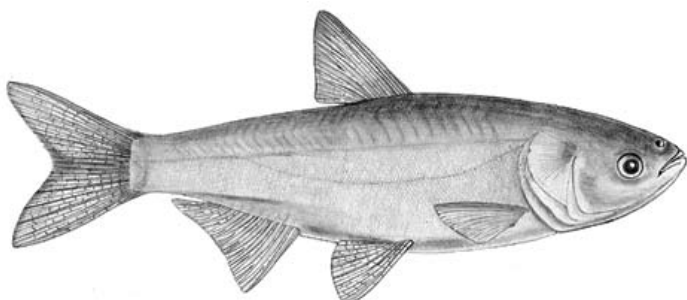
## THE CARP ARE COMING, THE CARP ARE COMING!

Recent test results indicate that invasive Asian Carp are now in the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers in Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other agencies used a relatively new genetic test, eDNA, to look for evidence of Asian Carp in Minnesota waters. The most recent tests found Asian Carp genetic material in 29 percent of Mississippi River samples collected downstream of the Ford Dam. This comes after earlier tests found evidence of Asian Carp in 44 percent of samples along the St. Croix River downstream of Taylors Falls.

Governor Dayton's recently released action plan includes pushing for emergency and/or permanent closure of locks

at the Ford Dam and St. Anthony Falls as well as measures to address the spread of Asian Carp downstream of the Ford Dam. This approach aligns well with objectives developed by Clean Water Action and a coalition of other environmental, conservation, recreation and lake organizations working to prevent the Asian Carp's spread:

- Ensure there are no Asian Carp above the Ford Dam
- Reduce the passage of additional Asian Carp through Iowa and into Minnesota; and,
- Control Asian Carp that may already be in the state.



Asian Carp species: Silver (left) and Bighead (right). Images courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey.



## Minnesotans tell EPA “We Love You”

Clean Water Action’s Dan Endreson and Deanna Steege collected dozens of pro-EPA postcards from Minnesotans during a September 24 event at the State Capitol. The postcards read:

*“Dear Administrator Jackson, Thank you for protecting our water! We support the EPA’s historically strong stances to ensure our lakes, rivers and streams are protected and restored. When you stand strong you do not stand alone.”*

They were hand delivered to Cameron Davis, Senior Advisor on the Great Lakes to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson, during an October 12 Great Lakes “town hall meeting” in Detroit, Michigan. While presenting the postcards, Clean Water Action’s Darrell Gerber thanked the EPA and Administrator Jackson for their water protection efforts. Gerber also pressed Davis on the need for strong federal protections against invasive species being introduced and spread via ballast water discharges.

Davis approached Gerber the next day to express EPA’s appreciation on behalf of himself and Administrator Jackson. He commented that the Agency rarely receives letters of thanks from the public. *This project is part of an ongoing campaign to protect EPA’s ability to enforce key water and health protections.*

# PROTECTING CHILDREN’S HEALTH

As co-founders of the public health coalition, Healthy Legacy, Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund continue to promote policies that will protect water and health from toxic chemicals. Children’s special vulnerability to toxic harm provides urgency and focus on making children’s products safer.

Under 2009’s Toxic Free Kids Act, Minnesota has begun to identify harmful chemicals in children’s products. The initial Chemicals of High Concern list released by the state Department of Public Health in July 2010 identifies 1755 chemicals. Many of these have already been named by other state, federal or international agencies as chemicals of concern for human health and the environment.

Clean Water Action and other Healthy Legacy partners have selected nine of these chemicals as priorities for immediate action, including bisphenol A (BPA), phthalates, lead, cadmium, brominated flame retardants and formaldehyde. The groups will campaign together to reform chemical policies so that these harmful product ingredients are required to be replaced with safer alternatives.

### Healthy Legacy Day at the Capitol



Protecting What Is Precious

**Date:** Tuesday, February 14, 2012  
**Time:** To be announced  
**Location:** Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul

**Description:** Do you want toxic chemicals out of children’s toys, shampoo and other products? Join Healthy Legacy on Valentine’s Day at the Minnesota Capitol!

We will be talking to state lawmakers and about how they can protect children’s health by supporting state policy that identifies toxic chemicals in children’s bubble bath, toys, and other products.

Visit us at [healthylegacy.org](http://healthylegacy.org) to learn more about our work!

printed in-house



*Clean Water Action members are invited to join Healthy Legacy campaigners and volunteers on February 14 to educate state lawmakers on health-harming toxic pollution and the need for transitioning to safer alternatives.*



**Clean Water Action at the Movies.** Clean Water Action members and supporters turned out in force on October 20 for the organization’s annual movie event at St. Anthony Main Theater. This year’s film *A Chemical Reaction*, documents a tiny Canadian community’s victory over powerful pesticide companies. The film’s small town heroes include a sheep-herding dermatologist and city council members who fought back and won when corporate polluters threatened their community’s environmental health.

# CONGRESS FAVORING POLLUTERS OVER OUR HEALTH

This year, the U.S. Congress has evolved to become the most anti-environmental Congress in history. Unprecedented attacks on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to undermine fundamental laws such as the Clean Water and Clean Air Acts threaten water and health. Over the past year, Congress has attempted to block EPA from implementing new standards to limit mercury, ozone, smog and greenhouse gas emissions from industrial sources. Federal lawmakers are also seeking to block cross state pollution rules intended to stop companies from poisoning people who live downwind from polluting facilities.

Clean Water Action and allies Washington, D.C. and in Minnesota are fighting these reckless attempts to weaken environmental standards. Groups are urging members of Minnesota's delegation, especially Sen. Amy Klobuchar, to stand up and vote "No" on these bad bills. Since July, Clean Water Action and its members have sent nearly 1,800 electronic messages to Sen. Klobuchar's office, along with hundreds of hand-written letters from people contacted door-to-door.

This outpouring of support for strong water and health protections is critical for stopping the worst of these proposals.

Minnesota's Congressional delegation needs to keep hearing from Clean Water Action members and others that weakening the standards that protect people's water, air and health is the wrong direction to be taking the country.

*Visit the [Clean Water Action web site to take action](#), or call your Representative and Senators directly at one of the numbers below.*

## U.S. SENATE:

Amy Klobuchar (202) 224-3244  
Al Franken (202) 224-5641

## U.S. HOUSE:

District 1 Tim Walz (202) 225-2472  
District 2 John Kline (202) 225-2595  
District 3 Erik Paulsen (202) 225-2871  
District 4 Betty McCollum (202) 225-6631  
District 5 Keith Ellison (202) 225-4755  
District 6 Michele Bachmann (202) 225-2331  
District 7 Collin Peterson (202) 225-2165  
District 8 Chip Cravaak (202) 225-6211



## HOW THEY VOTED: MINNESOTA'S LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

The U.S. House of Representatives is engaged in an all-out assault on the laws and regulations that have kept our water drinkable and our air breathable for decades. In addition to passing a bill that will gut the Clean Water Act, H.R. 2018, the House has also voted to make our air less breathable, with the passage this September of the TRAIN act. Representatives voted in October to reduce protection from emissions from cement plants and industrial boilers. Additional dirty water votes are expected.

Clean Water Action analyzed votes on 12 key bills. Scores for Minnesota's Representatives and Senators are shown below. More information and details on individual votes are available on Clean Water Action's web site: <http://www.cleanwateraction.org/feature/did-your-representative-vote-protect-environment>

MINNESOTA		% PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTES	
<b>REPRESENTATIVES:</b>		<b>SENATORS:</b>	
1 Walz (D)	83%	5 Ellison (D)*	100%
2 Kline, J. (R)	0%	6 Bachmann (R)*	0%
3 Paulsen (D)	25%	7 Peterson (D)	17%
4 McCollum (D)*	75%	8 Cravaack (R)	8%
		Al Franken (D)	100%
		Amy Klobuchar (D)	100%

\*Asterisk denotes that the representative did not vote on all bills. Percentages are based on total of number of bills voted on.

**TAKE ACTION:** Call or write your Congressperson and let them know how you feel about their votes. Urge them to let EPA do its job and tell them to protect us, not polluters! Go to [http://salsa.democracynaction.org/o/2155/p/dia/action/public/?action\\_KEY=8217#action](http://salsa.democracynaction.org/o/2155/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=8217#action)

Turn this:  
**CLEAN WATER**  
into this:  
**CLEAN WATER**

When it comes to year-end giving, you already know that Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund are smart choices to receive your financial support. Your gifts can have a huge positive impact, helping to protect water and health, now and for the future.

Here are four tips for how you can make the positive impact from your year-end giving even greater.

**YEAR-END GIVING TIPS**

**1. Matching Gifts.** Many employers will match donations made to **Clean Water Fund** dollar for dollar or sometimes even 2:1 or 3:1. That could allow your \$100 donation to have a \$200 or \$300 impact for our water.

**2. Giving at Work.** You can support Clean Water through your company's payroll deduction program. Federal employees can designate Clean Water Fund to receive their gifts through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #10636). Contact us for help adding Clean Water Fund as a workplace giving option, or establishing a payroll deduction program in your workplace.

**3. Retirement Resource Opportunity.** 2011 is the last year for special retiree-only giving incentives created by the federal government. Until December 31, 2011, anyone 70<sup>1/2</sup> or older can donate up to \$100,000 tax free to nonprofits like Clean Water Fund from their Individual Retirement Accounts (traditional or Roth IRAs). Mandatory IRA distributions are otherwise subject to income tax, but not if they're given directly to charities in 2011. Call Clean Water Fund for details, (202) 330-2379.

**4. Give the Gift of Clean Water.** You can designate your online donation(s) as gifts in honor or memory of a special person or occasion. Visit the "Donate" buttons on the [Clean Water Action](#) or [Clean Water Fund](#) web sites to learn how.

**Questions?** Contact us by e-mail, [development@cleanwater.org](mailto:development@cleanwater.org) or phone (202) 330-2379.



## Minnesota Currents

### WINTER UPDATE 2011

Clean Water Action is a national citizens' organization working for clean, safe and affordable water, prevention of health-threatening pollution, creation of environmentally-safe jobs and businesses, and empowerment of people to make democracy work.

Clean Water Action organizes strong grassroots groups, coalitions and campaigns to protect our environment, health, economic well-being and community quality of life.

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