

# Vote NO on Federal Land Grab

## *Preserve State Rights for Water Management*



### Unprecedented Expansion of Federal Authority

The “Clean Water Restoration Act” and “America’s Commitment to Clean Water Act” would for the first time give the federal government broad power to regulate all waters, including:

- ▶ Ponds
- ▶ Small and intermittent streams
- ▶ Creek beds
- ▶ Drainage ditches
- ▶ Mud holes

All would be subject to federal regulation, including areas that only contain water during snow melts or the rainy season.

### Reduces our Ability to Keep Important Waters Clean

Cattlemen don’t oppose efforts to keep our waters clean—in fact, we rely on clean sources of water to feed our animals and nurture our land.

This legislation would actually hamper the government’s ability to maintain clean waters. They are already struggling to handle a backlog of 15,000 to 20,000 permit requests.

At a time when our resources are already stretched thin, it makes no sense to expand the government’s responsibility to mud holes and other wet areas with little to no environmental value to the public.

### How is water regulated under current law?

Waters under the jurisdiction of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) are defined as “navigable waters of the United States.” Other waters are subject to regulation by individual states, which are better equipped to manage their own unique geographical concerns.

The “Clean Water Restoration Act” (S. 787) and “America’s Commitment to Clean Water Act” (H.R. 5088) would remove the word “navigable” from the definition, drastically expanding federal regulatory control over all wet areas.

This would amount to a massive land-grab by the government, not to mention an infringement on Americans’ constitutional rights to own and manage property without undue interference from the government.

Farmers and Ranchers could be required to obtain permits for common, everyday activities, like driving a tractor near an irrigation ditch or grazing cattle near a mud hole.

*“Navigability” is essential to maintain the appropriate federal-state balance that has been the hallmark of the Clean Water Act.*

