



Request:

Congress should establish a bipartisan Congressional Water Caucus to serve as a clearing house for information about water use and water conservation.

Background:

Congress has more than 200 caucuses that address important issues, but there is no one organization to protect the world's most vital resource – water. Water will be one of the biggest challenges the nation faces in the coming years.

A growing population is putting demands on finite water resources. Many parts of the world, including the U.S., are already experiencing the stress of demand for water that exceeds supplies. Even in times of normal rainfall, many regions of the U.S., including areas that historically haven't suffered water shortages, don't have enough water to meet competing demands. The nation must prepare to make available water sources go further. Congress should take action before a severe water crisis hits.

Many federal agencies have programs related to water quality, water conservation, drought monitoring or drought mitigation. An array of water-related legislation is introduced every year, yet there is no congressional forum to advance the science and the knowledge to face growing water challenges. A Water Caucus can build the expertise and leadership needed to develop a comprehensive water strategy.

Census estimates show the U.S. population exceeded the 300 million mark in 2006. In the next 20 years, water demand will continue to increase for agricultural, industrial and domestic uses. While demand for water is increasing, the quantity of water on the planet hasn't changed in billions of years.

Available technologies can improve efficiency and extend the water supply for many uses. A water caucus can promote research and the use of available technologies for protecting water supplies and increasing efficient and effective water usage while safeguarding the environment.

The establishment of a Congressional Water Caucus will allow members of Congress committed to the goal of water conservation to have a meaningful dialogue about how best to realize that goal. Such a caucus could also serve as a clearinghouse for information about all federal water programs.

Please consider supporting this initiative.

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