

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
18TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2160 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3816

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1919 SMITH STREET, SUITE 1180
THE GEORGE "MICKEY" LELAND FEDERAL BUILDING
HOUSTON, TX 77002
(713) 655-0050

ACRES HOME OFFICE:
6719 WEST MONTGOMERY, SUITE 204
HOUSTON, TX 77019
(713) 691-4882

HEIGHTS OFFICE:
420 WEST 19TH STREET
HOUSTON, TX 77008
(713) 861-4070

FIFTH WARD OFFICE:
4300 LYONS AVENUE, SUITE 200
HOUSTON, TX 77020
(713) 227-7740

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEES:
COURTS AND COMPETITION POLICY

IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP, REFUGEES, BORDER
SECURITY, AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

CRIME, TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY
CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CHAIR
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE
PROTECTION
BORDER, MARITIME, AND GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

AFRICA AND GLOBAL HEALTH

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION, AND TRADE

SENIOR WRAP
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

**CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE, OF
TEXAS**

**RULES COMMITTEE HEARING ON H.R. 2018, "Clean
Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011**

AMENDMENT # 7

TALKING POINTS



July 12, 2011

I thank the Chairman for the opportunity to speak in support of my amendment, number 7, to H.R. 2018 “The Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011.” My amendment restores the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to work with state governments to establish standards ensuring all Americans have access to clean and safe water.

My amendment strikes the entire bill. The Clean Water Act (CWA) was designed to encourage collaboration between state agencies and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in order to develop acceptable standards for maintaining the safety of our nation’s bodies of water. The EPA was created in 1970 to ensure that our air, land, and water receive adequate protection from pollution and we must allow them to do so for the benefit of all Americans.

The Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act is absolutely not the way to protect our nation’s water bodies. The EPA has the expertise and resources for research, standard-setting, monitoring

and enforcement with regard to five environmental hazards; air and water pollution, solid waste disposal, radiation, and pesticides. EPA represents a coordinated approach to each of these problems.

Seeking to limit the extent to which the EPA can oversee the safety of our water supply threatens the health of American citizens across the country. History has demonstrated a need to protect bodies of water. We need only look to the Love Canal disaster of the 1970's, or the catastrophic incident of toxins infecting the water supply in Woburn, Massachusetts.

It was the work of brilliant lawyers in conjunction with the EPA who proved that the chemical entities involved deliberately placed toxins in the water. **Let us also not forget The Love Canal of the 1970's near Niagara Falls either.** In this region, scores of women had miscarriages and many more were contaminated from chemical wastes in the water. This bill may have the serious unintentional consequence of returning our

country by to a time when these problems could easily have become common?

Because the issues associated with Woburn and the Love Canal are well in the past, it is easy to fall into compliancy. It is easy to feel that the water people drink is perfectly safe and no longer needs to be strictly regulated. Just last year in the small town of Crestwood, outside of Chicago, it was discovered that town officials were secretly introducing tainted well water into the town water supply for years. The people were told that the water came from Lake Michigan. When the story broke the Department of Public Health conducted a survey of disease rates and found that men in the town had high rates of kidney and gastrointestinal cancer. I, for one, will not tolerate this and I know the American people will not tolerate this as well. The American people will not tolerate the fear of turning on their facets and

wondering whether or not the water coming out has lead, plutonium, or wastes from chemical entities.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and I yield back the remainder of my time.