



H.R. 2030 Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act

Congressman Earl Blumenauer ■ Third District of Oregon ■ www.blumenauer.house.gov

Lack of safe water and sanitation is the world's single greatest health challenge, accounting for 2 million deaths a year and half the illnesses in the developing world. Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Donald Payne (D-NJ), along with Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL), introduced major bipartisan legislation to strengthen the U.S. government's capacity to target and coordinate clean water and sanitation assistance to the world's poorest nations.

The Challenge

Today, one-fifth of the world's population relies on freshwater that either is polluted or significantly overdrawn.

In 2005, the U.S. enacted Congressman Blumenauer's bipartisan "Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act," establishing the Millennium Development Goal's water and sanitation target as a major goal of US foreign assistance. This landmark legislation now reaches millions. With funding at \$300 million in FY08 and \$300 million in FY09, this legislation is providing people in developing nations with safe, clean drinking water.

Although progress is being made through partnerships between the U.S. Government, NGOs, businesses, and local partners, more than one billion people lack access to safe drinking water, and more than two billion people live without improved sanitation. By 2025, climate change, drought, and rapid population growth will further stress water resources, leaving 2.8 billion people in more than 48 countries facing severe and chronic water shortages. The world's greatest health problem may become the most serious threat to global security.

What this Legislation Would Do

The Water for the World Act sets a benchmark of providing 100 million of the world's poorest with first-time access to safe and sustainable drinking water and sanitation by 2015. To achieve this, the Act builds upon the success of the 2005 Water for the Poor Act by:

- Establishing an Office of Water within USAID to implement country-specific water strategies;
- Creating a Special Coordinator for International Water within the State Department to coordinate the diplomatic policy of the U.S. with respect to global freshwater issues;
- Establishing programs in countries of greatest need that invest in local capacity, education, and coordination with US efforts;
- And emphasizing cross-border and cross-discipline collaboration, as well as the utilization of low-cost technologies, such as hand washing stations and latrines.

Who Supports the Legislation?

H.R. 2030 is endorsed by a number of global health and environmental advocates, including Water Advocates, the Natural Resources Defense Council, ONE, U.S. Fund for UNICEF, International Housing Coalition, CARE, and Population Services International.

Senate sponsors include Durbin (D-IL), Corker (R-TN), and Murray (D-WA).

House sponsors include Reps. Blumenauer (D-OR), Payne (D-NJ), Boozman (R-AZ), Burton (R-IN), Welch (D-VT), Fortenberry (R-NE), Miller (D-CA), Rohrabacher (R-CA), and Wamp (R-TN).

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