



**Congressman Earl Blumenauer
Third District of Oregon**

H.R. 2030, THE SENATOR PAUL SIMON WATER FOR THE WORLD ACT

The United States cannot sustainably meet its poverty alleviation, global health, or development assistance goals without addressing the issue of safe water and sanitation. To increase the effectiveness of US investment in this area, Reps. Blumenauer, Payne, and Senator Durbin developed legislation to expand US foreign assistance capacity and recognize sustainable water and sanitation policy as vital to long-term diplomatic and development efforts.

The Challenge:

Today, one-fifth of the world's population relies on freshwater that is either polluted or significantly overdrawn. A lack of safe water and sanitation is an ongoing threat to global security and remains the world's greatest health problem, accounting for 2 million deaths a year and half the illness in the developing world. In 2005, the US enacted the bipartisan Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act, which established investment in safe and affordable water for the world's poorest as a major goal of US foreign assistance and has been funded at \$300 million in FY08, and \$300 million in FY09.

Although progress is being made through innovative partnerships between the US Government, NGOs, businesses, and local partners, nearly 900 million people worldwide still lack access to safe drinking water and 2 out of 5 people on the planet lack basic sanitation services. By 2025, climate change and rapid population growth will further stress water resources and are expected to leave 2.8 billion people in more than 48 countries facing severe and chronic water shortages.

What Would the Legislation Do?

The overarching goal of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act is to provide 100 million of the world's poorest with first-time access to safe drinking water and sanitation on a sustainable basis by 2015. The legislation would build upon the success of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act and would:

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

Who Supports the Legislation?

H.R. 2030 is endorsed by a number of global health and environment advocates, including Water Advocates, NRDC, Millennium Water Alliance, International Housing Coalition, CARE, and Population Services International. It is sponsored on the Senate side by Senators Durbin (D-IL), Corker (R-TN), and Murray (D-WA). On the House side, the lead sponsors are 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).

For more information on Congressman Blumenauer's foreign policy agenda, please contact Stephanie Cappa in the DC office at (202) 225-4811, Hillary Barbour in the Portland office at (503)231-2300, or online at <http://www.blumenauer.house.gov/>.

**Legislative
Agenda**