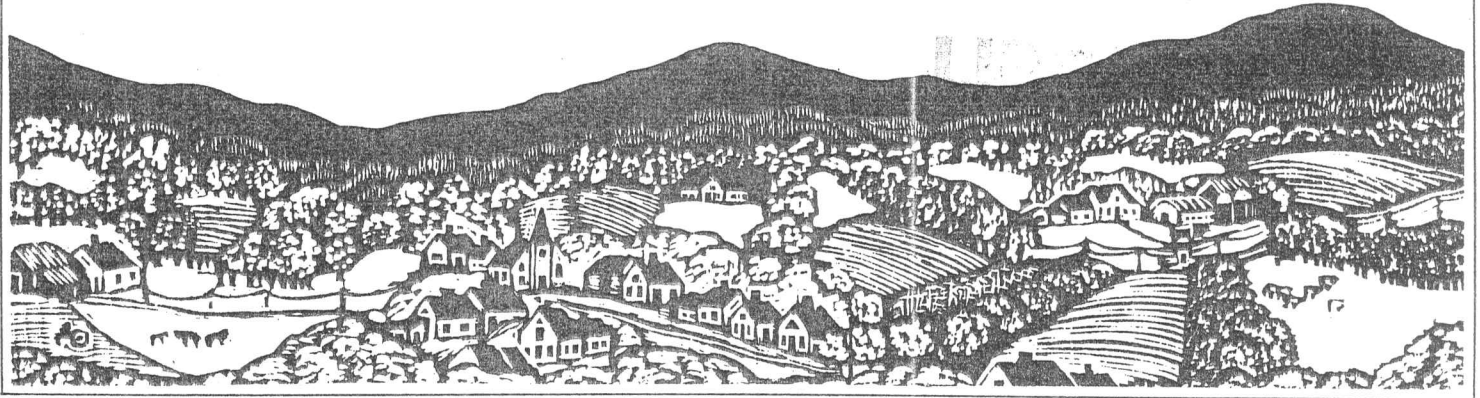


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VNRC Bulletin

JUN 20 1983



June 13, 1983

Dear VNRC Members:

There are two U.S. congressional bills coming up immediately on which we need your help. One (the Wilderness bill) concerns Vermont only, the other (the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act--see other side of this Bulletin) will have impact throughout the U.S. Here are the details and how you can help: If you need additional information on either of these bills, please give us a call at VNRC (223-2328).

WILDERNESS BILL (S.897 and H.R.2275)

The second and last public hearing on these bills will be held on Saturday, July 9 in Manchester, Vermont at Burr & Burton Seminary, starting at 9 a.m. If there is any possibility you can set aside part of a day to put your environmental convictions into action, this is one day where your presence will make a real difference.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO RIGHT NOW:

1. Call Representative Jeffords' office to sign up to testify (1-800-835-5500). Jeffords has organized the hearing and Rep. John Seiberling (Democrat, Ohio) will preside. Seiberling is Chairman of the U.S. House Interior subcommittee responsible for wilderness legislation. People signing up early (within the next few days) will probably be given 5 minutes each to testify and will be notified by Jeffords' office of approximately what time they will be scheduled.

2. Then call the person below who is the "Wilderness coordinator" nearest you to say that you've signed up to testify. It is very important that we have a tally of how many pro-wilderness people are planning to testify.

Barre-Montpelier: VNRC-223-2328 (days), Warner Shedd-456-8985 (evenings)
Bennington: Ellie Viereck (h-442-5535)
Bradford/Newbury: Ray & Tina Clark (h&w-429-2443)
Brattleboro: Suzanne Martel (h-257-0074)
Burlington: Lowell Krassner & Diane Geerken (862-7371, from 5 p.m. to 10 a.m.)
Manchester: John Barstow (w-362-1022, h-867-2253)
Middlebury: Robert Hamilton (h-388-3750, w-247-5711, ext. 355)
Newport: Fred Kosnetsky (w-334-7224, h-334-8073)
Randolph/Brookfield: Don Hooper (w-223-2328, h-276-3107)
Rutland: Stark Biddle (h&w-492-3350)
Springfield/Chester: Hugh Henry (h&w-875-3379)
St. Albans: David Shepard (h-524-3614)
St. Johnsbury: Charlie Brown (w-748-2372)
Waitsfield/Warren: Steve Young (h&w-496-3774)
Waterbury/Stowe: John Nutting (h&w-244-8042)
White River/Norwich: John Aubin (w-295-9353, h-295-5484)
Woodstock: VINS-457-2779 (days), Sami Izzo-295-6935 (evenings)

As you know from our May 13th Bulletin, the Council strongly supports the Vermont Congressional delegation's bill to designate 65,000 acres of the Green Mountain National Forest as "wilderness." At the May 31st hearing before Representative Jeffords and Senators Leahy and Stafford, VNRC submitted eight pages of testimony giving our reasons for supporting wilderness designation for four areas of public land known as Big Branch, Breadloaf, Lye Brook Addition and Woodford. The May 13th Bulletin summarizes some of those reasons. If you would like a copy of our written testimony, please ask and we'll send you one.

If you are unable to make it to the hearings, a letter to Congressman Jeffords would be very helpful. (Send it to 2431 Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC 20515.)

CLEAN WATER ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Possibly as early as June 16 and 17, the Senate Environmental Pollution Subcommittee is scheduled to debate and vote on S.431 to reauthorize and amend the Clean Water Act. In addition to being Chairman of the full Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Vermont's Senator Robert Stafford is a member of this Subcommittee. He will have tremendous influence on the future direction of the National Clean Water Program.

With your help, we can insure continued progress towards fishable, swimmable waters in the 1980s.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

A phone call, postcard or letter right now from you will assure Senator Stafford that he has strong support back home to keep the Clean Water Act as effective as it is today.

The reason you should tell the Senator of your support and concern is that there are several key points on which weakening amendments are under Committee scrutiny. The Izaak Walton League, which is monitoring the clean water debate in Washington, urges VNRC to urge Senator Stafford to:

1. Oppose Weakening of the Pretreatment Program. Section 7 of S.431 would allow EPA to exempt some communities with local pretreatment program from the national program that requires industries to "pretreat" their wastewater to remove toxics before discharging their wastes into public sewer systems. Industries in communities that receive an "opt out" from the national pretreatment program would no longer have to meet uniform, industry-wide pretreatment standards, which are likely to be stricter than local standards. Toxics discharged into sewage treatment plants can interfere with treatment systems, pass into receiving waters untreated, or contaminate otherwise reuseable sludge.

2. Clean up "toxic hot spots" In some heavily industrialized areas, existing controls on industrial toxics required by the Clean Water Act will be insufficient to achieve clean water. The Act should be amended to require EPA to identify these "toxic hot spots," and to require EPA to develop and implement additional controls needed to achieve clean water. Pollution Subcommittee Chairman Senator Chafee (R.I.) may offer an amendment to require EPA to identify hot spots, but it probably won't force EPA to develop and implement additional controls for problem toxics.

3. Control nonpoint source pollution. Half of all water pollution is runoff from streets, farms, and construction sites, yet the Clean Water Act has few required controls on this "nonpoint source" pollution. The Act should be amended to require the use of "best management practices (BMP) economically achievable" to reduce nonpoint source pollution where needed to achieve clean water. Such management practices include the use of hay bales around construction sites to trap runoff sediments or using contour plowing on easily erodable soil. S.431 includes \$150 million a year for a nonpoint pollution control program.

4. Allow industry only three years to control toxics. Most industries will be unable to meet the July 1984 deadline for the control of toxics because EPA was slow to issue their cleanup standards. Section 4 of S.43 would allow most industries up to three years (as opposed to 6 years) to implement controls on toxics required by the Act.

Senator Stafford has been an active proponent of an effective Clean Water Act. In a May 31st meeting with a small VNRC delegation, he was adamant in saying he would not stand for any weakening of the present statute.

Bravo. Here's a great time to offer him moral support. Let him know of your concern for clean water.

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