

October 2, 2011

Senator Ben Cardin  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife  
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee  
509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin,

The BlueGreen Alliance – a partnership of 10 of the nation’s largest labor unions and 4 of America’s most influential environmental organizations, representing more than 14 million members and supporters united in working toward a clean energy economy – see the ecological and public health benefits of clean water as sacrosanct. We also see efforts to provide clean drinking water, conserve water and protect our nation’s waterways as integral in job creation and supporting a strong domestic economy.

Environmental regulations, such as the Clean Water Act, produce jobs in several ways. They encourage the development of advanced technology and promote competition to comply with needed standards. In many cases, industrial and agricultural processes that produce significant amounts of pollution are inefficient, and improving them sparks new approaches that increase productivity and often result in new investment, which in turn preserves or create jobs.

Furthermore, they promote innovation through joint public and private efforts, for example through pilot projects that leverage academic, scientific and business resources to mitigate pollution with community, industry and government stakeholder buy-in.

Second, controlling pollution itself produces new jobs in manufacturing and operations, in implementation of new technologies and the operations and maintenance of facilities that keep pollution low.

Lastly, environmental damage entails impacts to public health, which can reduce people’s ability to work effectively. Improving people’s health means workers improve their productivity, earn more and spend that extra income on goods and services, creating or maintaining jobs in the larger economy.

The BlueGreen Alliance thanks you for ensuring Americans enjoy safe drinking water and clean, clear rivers and streams. We support your dedication to these issues and defense of the Clean Water Act across multiple bi-partisan efforts. Our labor and environmental partnership hopes that moving forward, the economic case for strong water standards is fully factored into progressive policies that develop robust water infrastructure, protect water resources and deliver clean, safe drinking water.

Sincerely,



David Foster  
Executive Director  
BlueGreen Alliance

