



Protecting Our Wetlands

Excerpts from recent speeches by Governor Bill Clinton

Our country's wetlands are havens of natural beauty and wildlife that must be preserved for future generations. I am firmly in support of "no net loss" of our nation's wetlands and believe these critical wetlands must be protected. I strongly condemn George Bush's efforts to re-write the definition of wetlands to get around his campaign pledge to allow "no net loss." The nation's most critical ecosystems, wetlands must be protected because of their importance for flood storage, surface and groundwater replenishment, pollution filtration, and wildlife habitat. New measures are need to restore and protect them. I support the expansion of Section 404 authority to regulate activities that impact wetlands.

The wetlands policy of a Clinton Administration will be based on science, not politics. The recent attempt by the Competitiveness Council to rewrite wetlands regulations demonstrates the danger of allowing political considerations to govern the determination of wetlands policy. As President, I will work with the National Academy of Sciences and other members of the scientific community to devise an appropriate wetlands protection policy. Regulations, however, should be less stringent on lands that have lost many of their values as wetlands, especially farmlands that have already been cleared.

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