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Corvallis, OR

August 10, 2009

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Letter: Show your strong support for a powerful Clean Water Act

For the past 30 years, we've benefited from the Clean Water Act's protection of our water. But in rulings issued since 2001, the Supreme Court began changing all that to extend protection only to rivers that flow year-round and can float logs or boats. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, in Oregon that means that 53 percent of streams would not be protected. Neither will 1,581,537 people in Oregon who receive some of their drinking water from these smaller streams and water sources. Currently, there are at least 74 facilities located on small streams in Oregon that could lose federal regulation over their pollution discharges if the Clean Water Act is not restored to its original strength.

Let's not return to the days when rivers and streams were pollution dumping grounds. To close this loophole, the U.S. Senate introduced Clean Water Restoration Act (S.787), and there will be a similar bill in the U.S. House in coming weeks.

Rep. Peter DeFazio can play a key role in protecting Oregon's clean water by supporting strong legislation to restore the Clean Water Act. Through these bills, we can stop the Supreme Court from dirtying our water.

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Corvallis