



EESI

Briefing Notice

Protecting America's Water Amid Growing Threats

Thursday, June 29, 2017

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Room 200, Capitol Visitor Center (House side)

Please RSVP to expedite check-in: www.eesi.org/062917water#rsvp

Live webcast (connection permitting) will be streamed at: www.eesi.org/livecast

The **Hudson River Sloop Clearwater**, the **Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)**, and **Clean Water Action** invite you to a briefing on federal protection for clean water, which is increasingly under threat from steep proposed EPA budget cuts and recent decisions rescinding key federal rules (including the rules that applied the Clean Water Act to smaller waterways and wetlands or prohibited discharge of coal mining waste into streams). Meanwhile, aging infrastructure, population growth, and climate change—with its droughts and floods—put an ever-increasing strain on America's waterways and drinking water. This requires increased investment and sharper focus on science-based policy simply to maintain existing water quality—let alone improve it—and protect water resources from systemic failures like the ones experienced in Flint, MI, Newburgh, NY, and many other places across the country. Speakers will discuss impacts of proposed funding cuts and rollbacks in clean water protections on public and environmental health, and how to undo the damage.

- **Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney** (NY18)
- **Mustafa Ali**, Founder and Former Director, EPA Environmental Justice Office; Senior Vice President of Climate, Environmental Justice & Community Revitalization, Hip Hop Caucus
- **John Cronin**, Original Hudson Riverkeeper and *Time Magazine* “Hero for the Planet”; Senior Fellow for Environmental Affairs, Pace University's Academy for Applied Environmental Studies
- **Kenneth Kimmell**, President, Union of Concerned Scientists; former Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection [invited]
- **Aaron Mair**, former President, Sierra Club Board of Directors; former Epidemiological-Spatial Analyst, New York State Department of Health.
- **Tinya Seeger**, daughter of Pete Seeger
- **Brent Bolin**, Chesapeake Regional Director & Acting Political Director, Clean Water Action (moderator)
- Other Members of Congress and experts TBA

This briefing is a timely reprise of historic events in 1970, when Pete Seeger sailed the sloop *Clearwater* from the Hudson River to Washington, DC, and held a Capitol Hill forum on clean water credited with being a turning point in the fight for the 1972 Clean Water Act (CWA). Five decades later, the CWA and other federal laws and policies have vastly improved the quality and health of U.S. waterways and drinking water resources. But that progress is now threatened, so the *Clearwater* is again sailing to Washington, DC, and delivering a “cargo of concern” for clean water and science-based policy to Congress. As Pete Seeger said in 1970, “We’re going to Washington because the problems of the American rivers can’t be solved by people like me who live on them. Only the federal government has the power to enact and enforce the laws that are needed.”

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Amaury Laporte at alaporte@eesi.org or (202) 662-1884.

