

GIVING A FREE PASS TO POLLUTERS

SF 737/ HF 1003

WHAT THIS BILL DOES

Exempts municipalities that construct a sewage treatment plant from meeting new limits needed to protect water quality and human health, when those limits require the facility to make a capital investment. Essentially, this bill lets polluters off the hook, allowing them to discharge pollution into lakes, rivers, and streams in violation of standards set by the state and federal governments to protect our waters.



CONSEQUENCES OF THIS BILL

This bill will increase pollution, by allowing polluters to discharge in excess of standards.

Water pollution permits are issued by PCA to protect our public waters - these permits allow only a certain amount of pollution into our public waters. If cities do not meet the limits, the waters are going to be more polluted, and may not be clean enough for fish to live in or humans to swim in.

This bill creates uncertainty for municipal facilities and PCA.

Any permit that fails to meet these basic requirements could be challenged in court, which will increase delays and increase uncertainty for those seeking to construct a facility.

This bill delays water clean-up, and makes it more expensive.

Preventing pollution from these sewage treatment plants is far cheaper than cleaning-up waters after they become polluted.

MCEA'S POSITION

Oppose this bill because it:

- Gives a free pass to those who discharge pollution into our lakes, rivers and streams;
- The bill requires PCA to issue permits that could violate the Clean Water Act, and this creates uncertainty for permitted facilities; and
- Will delay work to clean up our waters, and increase the cost of the eventual clean-up.

Vote NO to allow PCA to continue to do its jobs of preventing excess pollution from entering our lakes, rivers and streams.



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