

BURR'S DIRTY WATER RECORD

SUPPORTED LIABILITY WAIVER FOR PRODUCERS OF MTBE THAT ENDANGERS OUR WATER

2003: Congressman Richard Burr Voted For The Energy Bill. On November 18, 2003 Congressman Richard Burr voted to pass the Energy Policy Act of 2003. [HR 6, Roll Call 630, 11/18/03]

- **The Energy Bill Will Create A \$29 Billion Liability Waiver For MTBE Producers Nullifying Lawsuits Filed After September 5, 2003.** Title XV Section 1502 of the Energy Policy Act establishes a “safe harbor” for MTBE producers by removing all lawsuits by cities, states and other entities seeking compensation for groundwater contamination filed after September 5, 2003. The MTBE liability waiver included in the Energy Policy Act of 2003 is estimated to protect MTBE producers from an estimated \$29 billion that they would have to pay to cleanup contaminated sites across the United States according to the Environmental Working Group. [www.ewg.org, Accessed 12/15/03; HR 6 Title XV Sec. 1502 p. 21.]

MTBE Is In The Water Supply Of 15 Million People, Few Drops Of MTBE Can Make Olympic Size Swimming Pool Undrinkable. MTBE is in 1,515 public water systems in the United States, and impacts more than 15 million people. Only a few drops of it can make an Olympic size swimming pool completely undrinkable. [[New Jersey State Law Journal](#), 10/20/03; [Portland Herald Press](#), 11/10/03]

VOTED TO CUT CLEAN WATER FUNDING

1995: Burr Voted to Cut Clean Water by 35 Percent. In 1995, Burr voted for the FY 1996 VA/ HUD Appropriations bill, which would have cut the Clean Water program by 35 percent. The bill passed 228 to 193. [HR 2099, vote #607, 7/31/95; "Republican Revolution, Republican Retreat," 9/27/96]

1995: Burr Voted to Gut Clean Water Laws. In 1995, Burr voted for the Republican Clean Water Act, which made huge revisions to the original Clean Water Act of 1972. The bill eased dozens of pollution controls for industries and cities and repealed federal protections for most of the nation's wetlands. The bill passed 240 to 185. [HR 961, vote #337, 5/16/95; New York Times, 5/17/95]

VOTED AGAINST PROTECTING DRINKING WATER FROM HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

2001: Burr Voted Against Stricter Arsenic Standards for Drinking Water. In 2001, Burr voted against an amendment to the FY 2002 VA/ HUD Appropriations bill that restored stringent regulation of arsenic levels in drinking water that had been put on hold by the Bush administration. The amendment passed 218 to 189. The restored standard set arsenic limits at 10 parts per billion, a level that was first recommended by the EPA over 40 years ago and is endorsed by the World Health Organization. In 1999, the National Academy of Science found that arsenic contaminated drinking water could cause a host of illnesses including bladder, lung and skin cancer. [HR 2620, vote #288, 7/27/01; Washington Post, 7/5/01]

2001: Burr Voted Against Protecting Water from Mining Pollution. In 2001, Burr voted against an amendment to the FY 2002 Interior Appropriations bill that would prevent the Bush Administration from altering restrictions that protect water supplies from mining pollution and require mining companies to pay for environmental cleanups. The amendment passed 216 to 194. [HR 2217, vote #182, 6/21/01; Washington Post, 6/22/01]