

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:

September 16, 2002

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LAST WEEK

LEGISLATION OF NOTE

The following Bills of significance to NRCS and conservation have been introduced:

Bill	Sponsor	Purpose
H.R. 5183	Oberstar, MN	To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the United States over waters of the United States.
H. R. 5310	Thune, SD	To provide emergency livestock assistance and emergency crop loss assistance to agricultural producers.
S. 2830	Roberts, KS	To provide emergency disaster assistance to agricultural producers.
S. 2813	Smith, NH	To improve the financial and environmental sustainability of the water programs of the United States

DROUGHT AID – On Tuesday, September 10, the Senate in a vote of 79-16 adopted the Drought Assistance amendment to the Interior appropriations bill, H.R. 5093. The Daschle Modified Amendment No. 4481 provides emergency disaster relief to agricultural producers.

EVERGLADES HEARING- On September 13, 2002 the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Chairman, Jeffords, VT) conducted an oversight hearing regarding the implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. Witnesses from EPA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department of Interior discussed the programmatic regulations governing the restoration. Other witnesses from the State of Florida, Indian tribes, farm groups, environmental groups, and local governments expressed strong support for the balanced approach to allocate water resources between restoration and water use demands in southern Florida stressing the importance for continuing the collaborative planning process.
