

Don't allow environmental laws to be ignored by bureaucratic inaction!

If bureaucrats and elected officials do not like laws, they can effectively repeal those laws through their own administrative actions and policies. Ways they do this are:

- Budget starvation – not funding the expenses for oversight or the implementation of the law
- Slashing staff – and, thus, not putting staff efforts into implementing the law
- Not dealing with difficult problems – by ignoring the problems the law deals with, in essence the bureaucracy behaves as though the law does not exist
- Reduced monitoring of violations and reduced enforcement
- Creating incident reports that merit no further review or response
- Developing administrative policy that does not have teeth, allows voluntary compliance, or is toothless when violations happen

You can be an advocate for strong enforcement of environmental laws:

- Encourage strongly written rules that implement environmental laws
- Support adequate staffing of departments so that they can effectively do their jobs
- Encourage the department to budget for the tools and tests they need to determine if the laws are being complied with
- Demand that the agency monitor violations and aggressively pursue enforcement
- Monitor agency actions
- Speak out during public hearings held by the agency.
- Write letters to the agency head; let your thoughts be heard.



Eagle. Photo by Nick Graceffa.

Additionally you can

- Talk to candidates about the need for strong environmental laws.
- Be an educated voter.
- Write letters to the editor of your local papers when the agencies are not implementing the laws.
- Contact your legislator and ask for their support in protecting the environment.

As a citizen you have an obligation to be involved, you have a right to be a watchdog, and you have a duty to speak out.

Be an environmental watchdog!