

Restore Public Representation to the Clean Water Commission Yes on SB 1419 and HB 2853



The Missouri Clean Water Commission (CWC) is a seven-member board appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate, which coordinates all aspects of water quality in the state. It implements federal Clean Water Law, permitting entities that are potential sources of pollution.

Correcting a Mistake Made in 2016



The Commission currently consists primarily of people with direct ties to agricultural, mining and other industries who benefit from more lax controls in over water quality. This is because in 2016 the Legislature passed HB 1713, with an amendment that changed the membership makeup of the CWC, giving regulated entities a much larger voice and silencing members of the public. This amendment was placed on the bill on the Senate floor. **Having never received a hearing, the amendment lacked proper vetting.**

Enacting the Will of the Public

Since then, the CWC has approved permits that were the subject of massive and unified public opposition, including permits for entities proposing to operate within floodplains. This bill has overwhelming public support. Sixty seven people testified in favor of HB 2853 and eleven people testified in favor of SB 1419, in early April of this year. Not a single person nor a single organization testified against either bill.

A Balanced Approach

Balancing the industry interests with public interests will ensure balanced consideration of property values, water quality, public health, and industry needs. This bill will bring back the public majority requirement on the Commission by requiring four members from the public, one member representing agriculture, one representing industry or mining, and one representing publicly owned wastewater treatment works.

SB 1419 was filed by Senator Doug Beck. It has received a hearing in the Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment Committee. HB 2853 was filed by Rep. Paula Brown. SB 1419. It has received a hearing in the House Special Committee on Public Policy.