



Citizens Environment Alliance

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## of southwestern Ontario & southeastern Michigan

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **CLEAN WATER ACT SHOULD OFFER MORE PROTECTION FOR WATER QUALITY**

*Windsor, Ontario* – In a response to the proposed Clean Water Act, the Citizens Environment Alliance (CEA) has offered additional amendments to the Ontario government to improve the legislation. “The proposed Clean Water Act is a step in the right direction, but we believe there must be amendments made to the legislation to improve its capacity to protect Ontario’s drinking water quality,” stated Derek Coronado, Research and Policy Coordinator with the CEA.

The CEA’s submission to the Ontario government focused on five themes, with recommendations, to improve the legislation: public participation; Great Lakes protection; precautionary principle; interim measures, and; financing. The CEA recommendations included:

- Mandatory public consultation and participation provisions should be added throughout the *Clean Water Act*. Specifically, provision to publish proposed Terms of Reference and proposed Assessment Reports prior to approval, as required for proposed Source Protection Plans, should be mandatory.
- The precautionary principle should be inserted into the *Clean Water Act* as a guiding principle and the Act should require the use of the precautionary principle in the development of Source Protection Plans.
- The Act should require the province, municipalities and conservation authorities to take immediate, precautionary action with respect to high-risk activities and land uses, until such time as source protection plans are approved and implemented. Additionally, no new policy instruments with the potential to cause significant or irreversible harm to water sources should be issued before the source protection plans are in effect.

These and additional recommendations were preceded by a statement of expectations about source protection planning released by the CEA and a number of other Ontario environmental groups in 2004.

*For more information, contact:*

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