



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 488		DATE: 3/3/2025	
COMMITTEE: Conservation and Natural Resources			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 1:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in Support of the intention of this Bill. We do NEED additional Citizens who are knowledgeable and in the field of "Water Resources." However, we want to make sure that there is not "Special-Interest" or "Private-Holdings" that monopolize and take control of the "State Clean Water Commission." There NEEDS to be Personal Financial Disclosures by every Commission Member, Filed with both the Missouri Ethics Commission, the Department of Natural Resources and Secretary with the State Clean Water Commission to ensure Disclosure of All Conflict-of-Interest and to ensure that No person is receiving the majority of their Income for more than two (2) years from a Current Permit-Holder or Pending Application before the State Clean Water Commission and the Department of Natural Resources.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JAY HOSKINS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-436-8757	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS SEWER DISTRICT		TITLE: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 2350 MARKET ST.			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: LACEY HIRSCHVOGEL		PHONE NUMBER: 573-418-8298	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL UTILITIES		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2200 MCGUIRE BOULEVARD			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: LYNNE SCHLOSSER		PHONE NUMBER: 913-461-8724	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI AMERICAN WATER		TITLE: CONTRACT LOBBYISR	
ADDRESS: 1521 PEPPERWOOD			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63146
EMAIL: lynneschlosser@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 12:29 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MATT JESSEE		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI AMERICAN WATER		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 727 CRAIG RD.			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65141
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RICHARD SHEETS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-9134	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1727 SOUTHRIDGE DRIVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 8:36 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I urge you to reject HB 488, which threatens the integrity of Missouri's Clean Water Commission (CWC) by undermining impartial governance and eroding safeguards against conflicts of interest. This bill risks prioritizing narrow interests over the health of our waterways and the communities that depend on them. ****1. Loss of Diverse Perspectives**** The CWC's current structure ensures balanced representation among stakeholders, including environmental experts, agricultural representatives, and ***one*** member knowledgeable about public water utilities. HB 488 would permit multiple commissioners from this single sector, skewing the Commission's focus toward the operational and financial concerns of public treatment works. While their input is valuable, overrepresentation could marginalize other critical voices—such as advocates for small farmers, conservationists, or scientists—who ensure regulations protect both water quality and equitable access. Public utilities may prioritize cost-cutting over pollution prevention, risking weaker enforcement of standards that safeguard ecosystems and public health. Diversity on the Commission is not a bureaucratic checkbox; it is a necessity for fair, holistic decision-making. ****2. Opening the Door to Conflicts of Interest**** HB 488 repeals a vital provision barring commissioners from receiving significant income from permit holders or applicants within the past two years. This rule exists to prevent individuals with financial ties to regulated industries from influencing permits or policies that could directly benefit them. Its removal invites regulatory capture, where commissioners may prioritize polluters' profits over Missourians' right to clean water. Imagine a scenario where a commissioner employed by a wastewater permit applicant votes to weaken discharge limits—this bill makes that possible. Transparency and public trust demand rigorous conflict-of-interest standards, not their elimination. The CWC's role is to protect Missouri's waters for ***all*** residents, not tilt the scales toward specific sectors or private gain. HB 488 jeopardizes this mission. I implore you to uphold accountability, equity, and environmental stewardship by rejecting this harmful legislation.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA VATTEROTT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-581-0561	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND STRATEGY	
ADDRESS: 725 KINGSLAND AVE SUITE 100			
CITY: UNIVERSITY CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: mvatterott@moenvironment.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 1:15 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Dear Chairman Farnan and Members of the Committee, Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MCE) is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. Our mission is to educate, organize, and advocate in defense of Missouri's people and their environment. Given the importance of balancing considerations of all interests, people, land, and wildlife impacted by water pollution permits and rules promulgated in furtherance of Missouri's Clean Water Law, MCE urges this committee to oppose HB 488 unless it is amended to reflect concerns for public representation and fair representation of the varietal interests the Clean Water Commission (CWC) must consider. HB 488 seeks to open the door for more industrial representation on the CWC. Of the seven seats on the commission currently in statute, three must be occupied by industry. The changes in HB 488 could open the door to even more industry representation. For forty-four years, prior to industrial interests pressuring a reconstruction of the CWC makeup in 2016, the statute required four seats be occupied by members of the public. The current statutory provision in place that no longer requires a public majority has caused biased decisions that favor industry over all else when the Clean Water Commission is meant to enforce Missouri's Clean Water Law and care about the impacts of water contamination on Missouri's people and their environment. The wording of HB 488 would serve only to further skew the Clean Water Commission towards industry interests and away from public interest. From the example we share below, I hope you will see the reason that if any change in the makeup of the Clean Water Commission is warranted, it is to have more individuals concerned about the health and safety of the public and Missouri's environment, not individuals connected to industry. In the spring of 2023, the Clean Water Commission denied the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) request to promulgate a new rule governing cyanotoxins produced by algal blooms. MCE had petitioned DNR in November 2021 to promulgate a new rule given the impacts of Harmful Algal Blooms on people and wildlife. The petition was specifically tailored to addressing two types of cyanotoxins and the scope limited to lakes and reservoirs used for recreation in the state. Cyanotoxins associated with Harmful Algal Blooms can cause a variety of human health harms including "gastrointestinal issues, headaches, respiratory issues, and even liver and kidney damage." The petition asked the DNR to adopt the EPA's already existing criteria for these two cyanotoxins - microcystin and cylindrospermopsin. DNR hosted a public stakeholder meeting to discuss the criteria for the proposed rulemaking in June 2022 and also held an educational workshop about the petition in July 2022. DNR issued a regulatory impact report on the proposed rule and provided a sixty (60) day comment period. Four months after the comment period ended, DNR Water Protection Program held one last stakeholder meeting to discuss the proposed amendments to 10 CSR 20-7.031 to include water quality criteria for two cyanotoxins to protect

recreational use of Missouri's lakes and reservoirs. It was evidence that DNR was taking this petition seriously and made multiple opportunities available to interested parties to share their thoughts. Three weeks later on April 12, 2023, the proposed rulemaking was brought before the Clean Water Commission. Despite support from MCE, a permitted entity, and a concerned citizen, the CWC rejected the proposed rule with a 5-1 vote. Only one person opposed the rule of multiple industrial agriculture industry associations. DNR continues to have information about HABs on their website, warning citizens to be careful in Missouri waterbodies in the summer months due to the harms that can come from exposure to them. The example described above is just one example of a CWC decision in the last several years that was contrary to science, public outcry, and/or DNR support. Sixty organizations, farms, and businesses signed a letter in support of this legislative effort. HB 488 completely ignores the support and outcry for a public majority and for language that helps prevent conflicts of interests found in SB 1419 and HB 2853. Last session, these bills addressing such desires received broad support in both the House and Senate before ultimately being shut down behind closed doors. HB 488 attempts to ride on the coattails of last year's momentum to seek reform; however, do so in such a way that trims out all of the provisions that would actually benefit Missourians. Missourians deserve a Clean Water Commission made up of individuals who can live up to the mandate of having "a general interest in the public and . . . an interest and knowledge of conservation and the effects and control of water contaminants." While the current Commissioners may have this knowledge, they are often not voting in alignment with this knowledge; they are voting in alignment with other interests. Please respond to the public outcry seeking to reinstate a public majority on the Clean Water Commission, to have the Governor be limited to appointees who do not have a substantial interest in companies permitted by the CWC, and to have a process for Commissioners to abstain from voting when they have a conflict of interest. As such, Missouri Coalition for the Environment asks that you vote "no" on HB 488. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL BERG		PHONE NUMBER: 314-644-1011	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SIERRA CLUB MISSOURI CHAPTER		TITLE: VOLUNTEER	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 432010			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63143
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2025 8:36 PM
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