

## How To Contact Your Legislators Thank them for sponsoring and supporting the Tennessee Clean Water Act of 2007

Each legislator can be reached through the general assembly website, through the mail at their home office, or in Nashville. Legislators need input to be sure that they are representing the values of their constituents, particularly in the face of special interests and lobbyists for the regulated community. They need to hear from you that you 1) support their legislation and 2) that it will benefit the community by doing something good or stopping something undesirable.

At this time, our original sponsors for the Tennessee Clean Water Act of 2007 are Senator Jamie Woodson (SB 633) and Representative Frank Buck (HB 1803). Senator Ketron has also signed on as a sponsor. Each of them would appreciate your thoughts, thanks, and support for the bill.

We have provided a template for a letter that thanks the legislators, outlines some benefits of the legislation, and relies on you to fill in your personal story. Some might want to talk about how stormwater flooded their property. Others may have requested enforcement of obvious permit violations with no success and watched as pollution continued over weeks or even years.

Whether it is your personal experience, the importance of informed who is being issued permits or fined for pollution, or a general impression that our streams and wetlands are not being protected, speak up. Use your own words. Letters sent through the mail are more likely to be considered than e-mails. Handwritten letters are personal and unique. You communicate the best way for you considering the time you have to spend. Just let yourself be heard.

If you live in the legislator's district, you may want to send the mail to the district office to emphasize that you are a constituent and will be voting in their district. Feel free to send letters of support to all of the sponsors listed here, and who sign on in the future. If they are not in your district, it is customary to send letters to the Nashville address. Please respect the position of the legislators and address your letter to "Honorable" Senator or Representative.

(Insert Contact Information here)

To find the representative or senator for your home district, see <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/>.