

M E M O R A N D U M

May 7, 1984

TO: SENATOR DOLE  
FROM: ED DUCKERS  
RE: SYMMS AMENDMENT TO CLEAN WATER ACT

When the Senate turns to consideration of the Clean Water Act Amendments, Senator Symms will offer an amendment to allow some municipal sewage treatment works to administer their own program for treating toxic industrial wastes discharged into public sewers instead of adhering to the national program. This will be the major issue during consideration of the Clean Water bill.

Currently, EPA requires industrial pretreatment to national numerical standards before toxic wastes can be discharged into public treatment facilities. The amendment would give municipal treatment facilities six months to submit application to EPA for approval of a local program. If EPA approved the program, local industrial dischargers would then become subject to local requirements instead of the federal standards. Symms' argument is that this would permit local control for municipal systems that have already set up effective local pretreatment programs.

The amendment is opposed by the Committee and by EPA. During markup a similar "local opt-out" provision included in the original bill was dropped because the Committee concluded that no feasible alternative program existed that could adequately protect water quality. EPA testified to that effect. The further concern is that allowing local opt-out would seriously delay implementation of pretreatment programs.

The bill is also strongly opposed by the leading environmental organizations who view this as one of the most important environmental votes this year.

The business community and local government organizations support the Symms amendment.

Symms is shopping for cosponsors and would like to know if you would cosponsor. To date Senators McClure, Laxalt, Hatch, Garn and Denton are cosponsors.

DO YOU WANT TO COSPONSOR THE SYMMS AMENDMENT?

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_