



# News Release

## IDAHO WATER USERS ASSOCIATION, INC

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### **IDAHO WATER USERS APPLAUD HOUSE PASSAGE OF MEASURE REMOVING DOUBLE PERMITTING**

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Idaho's water user community is applauding the U.S. House of Representatives' passage Thursday (March 31) of legislation that exempts entities that must spray herbicides and pesticides in, near or above water from a court ruling that would require them to obtain a second permit under the Clean Water Act, officials with the Idaho Water Users Association said today.

The bill, co-sponsored by Idaho Congressmen Mike Simpson and Raul Labrador, cleared the House on a 292-130 vote.

“The bi-partisan passage of this measure truly provides welcomed regulatory relief for Idaho water users who must employ aquatic herbicides to keep canals free and clear of weeds for water delivery and to avoid flooding,” said Norm Semanko, IWUA Executive Director. In addition to assisting in the delivery of water and growing food, pesticides are used to help control mosquitoes and other insects. Herbicide sprays are also used to control weeds in lakes that provide recreation.

A ruling by a Federal Court in 2009 required people spraying in, near or above water to also get a permit from the Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Water Act even though a permit was also required under a different Federal law governing the use of insecticides, fungicides and rodenticides.

The Federal Court had already issued a stay that allowed spraying to go on under just the one permit while EPA and individual states developed new permitting systems. Coincidentally, on Monday (March 28) the Federal Court extended the stay which would allow spraying this year from April 9 to October 31. Spraying will still be controlled under the original permitting process.

“The strong bipartisan vote in the U.S. House coupled with the Court extending the stay truly was a double dose of good news for Idaho's water community. The court's original ruling requiring double permitting was a bad decision, pure and simple. All it did was impose an additional, unnecessary and costly bureaucratic burden on water users. We look forward to further consideration of this important legislation by the U.S. Senate and having it signed into law later this year,” Semanko said.

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