

# Republicans Ignore Environmental Needs

**Reality Does Not Match Rhetoric** — The President and House Republicans tout their environmental commitment, but reality does not match the rhetoric. The President’s budget drastically cuts environmental protection programs and rekindles previous proposals that the American people and Congress have flatly rejected. Instead of living up to the rhetoric, House Republicans also cut funds to protect our environment. In yet another misplaced priority, Republicans chose to support tax cuts over investments in clean air, safe drinking water, and the cleanup of toxic waste sites.

**Environment Will Suffer for Years to Come** — House Republicans provide only \$28.7 billion in discretionary funds in 2005, a cut of \$1.5 billion (5.1 percent) from last year’s level. Their funding levels in 2009 will still be \$901 million below the 2004 enacted level. Simply stated, the Republican budget cuts the federal commitment to environmental protection.

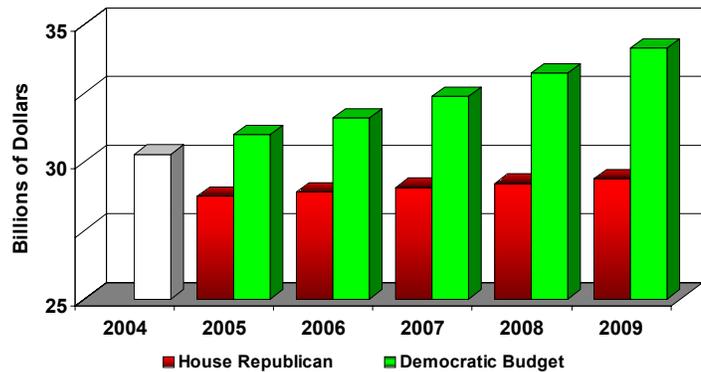
**Republicans Share President’s Environmental “Priorities”** — Similar to the President’s budget, the Republican budget also rejects critical environmental needs, sharing the President’s misplaced environmental “priorities” in the process.

**Democrats Have Real Environmental Priorities** — Democrats firmly believe in the public’s right to clean air and safe drinking water. For 2005, the Democratic budget provides \$31.0 billion in discretionary funds for these and other vital programs, \$2.2 billion more than the Republican budget. From 2005-2009, the Democratic budget will provide \$17.0 billion more for environmental conservation, protection, and preservation programs than Republicans.

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## Republican Budget Undermines Environmental Protection

Function 300 Discretionary



### REPUBLICAN BUDGET SHARES PRESIDENT’S ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

- FY09 funding is below FY04 enacted level.
- Clean water and drinking water needs ignored.
- Farmers and ranchers abandoned.
- Groundwater contamination by leaking MTBE and petroleum will continue.
- Promised conservation funding unfulfilled.
- Taxpayers foot the bill for corporate polluters.

## Democratic Budget is Green

***Democrats Support Safe Water*** — The Democratic budget increases funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and for other targeted water infrastructure needs. As our population grows and our existing water infrastructure reaches the end of its life span, the country is falling farther and farther behind in making the necessary investments to protect public health and the environment. The President and House Republicans ignore these documented huge unmet needs by cutting funding by \$822 million.

***Democrats Support Our Nation's Farmers and Ranchers*** — The Democratic budget reinstates over \$400 million in 2005 and nearly \$1 billion overall in vital Farm Bill programs that help farmers and ranchers protect and enhance natural resources. The President and House Republicans abandon farmers and ranchers by eliminating these conservation measures.

***Democrats Support "Polluter Pays"*** — Democrats reinstate the expired Superfund taxes levied on corporations and hold them responsible for the costs of cleaning up the nation's worst hazardous waste sites. The President and House Republicans abandon the "polluter pays" principle and cause taxpayers to foot the entire hazardous waste cleanup bill.

***Democrats Recognize the Dangers of Leaking Petroleum and MTBE*** — The Democratic budget restores funding for the Leaking Underground Storage Tank program. There are currently 136,000 confirmed releases that have not been addressed where leaking petroleum and MTBE are contaminating groundwater and drinking water supplies. The Republican budget does not restore the President's cut of \$3 million.

***Democrats Live Up to Conservation Pledge*** — The Democratic budget adheres to the 2001 agreement dedicating funding for the conservation spending category. The Democratic budget provides the entire \$2.2 billion authorized for 2005 and the full \$2.4 billion for 2006. Once again, the President and House Republicans backtrack on this landmark agreement.

***Democrats are Strong on Homeland Security*** — Democrats reinstate an \$8 million EPA research program on how to decontaminate buildings attacked by anthrax, ricin, and other toxins. The President eliminated the program, which the Republican budget does not restore. EPA admits the program's elimination will "force it to disband the technical and engineering expertise that will be needed to address known and emerging biological and chemical threats in the future."

***Democrats Fund Brownfields Revitalization*** — The Democratic budget provides full funding to help states clean up and redevelop brownfields, which are properties where environmental contamination is hampering redevelopment efforts. This funding will spur economic development and improve public health in urban areas.