

# Oberstar Democracy Project



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## Letter From Jim; Clean Water Restoration Act

Two United States Supreme Court rulings in 2001 and 2006 effectively stripped the Army Corp of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency from enforcing the original intent of the Clean Water Act.

The court has changed the meaning of what we know as “navigable waterways,” and have kept the Army Corp from fighting pollution. These rulings ignore everything we have learned about water pollution and wetland conservation. We have to control pollution at its source, if you wait until it hits a major waterway, it is too late.

For these reasons I introduced the Clean Water Restoration

Act, a bill aimed at restoring the Clean Water Act’s original intent. This is an effort to clean up our waterways, and fight pollution at its source. All waterways are connected, from aquifers, bogs, streams, rivers, and lakes. And we cannot control pollution unless we fight it at its beginning.

This is a public health, and public safety issue that we cannot ignore. My detractors have coined this bill a “federal land grab,” and nothing could be farther from the truth. This bill does not extend the jurisdiction of the Army Corp or the EPA; it merely returns the Clean Water Act to its original intent. CWRA includes the original exemptions

for mining, logging, and farming. In fact, the first line of the bill reads, “The Purpose of this act is as follows: To reaffirm the original intent of Congress in enacting the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (86 Stat. 816) to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the United States.”

The Clean Water Act has been around for 35 years, and we have proven that we can clean up our water, protect our wetlands, and still maintain a thriving economy.

*Jim Oberstar*

## Range Cities 4th of July Celebration!

The summer parade season is in full swing, and Congressman Oberstar is excited to head home to The Range Cities for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. The Range mid-summer celebration is one of many community events that the Oberstar campaign will take part in. “It’s great to get back home,” said Oberstar, “the small town parade is a chance to talk with people, and gain insight into the lives of working families. Walking the parades is a wonderful experience; it invigorates me every year.”

The Celebration takes place on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, six parades are scheduled for the two day event.

### July 3<sup>rd</sup>

Aurora Parade-6pm

Gilbert Parade-7:30pm

### July 4<sup>th</sup>

Eveleth Parade-9:30am

Nashwauk Parade- 12pm

Keewatin Parade- 2pm

Biwabik Parade- 7pm





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*“These are important investments,” Oberstar said, “Airports are vital links to the global market place. They bring people and ideas into our state and send Minnesota Products around the world.”*

## T&I Committee Tackles Global Warming

Last week the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure urged the U.S. Government to “Go Green.” In a major move to combat global warming the committee passed, by a voice vote, the Transportation Energy Security and Climate Change Mitigation Act of 2007, which promotes fuel efficient shipping of goods, increases ridership of public transit, and encourages other government agencies to join the environmental movement. “Our government has to lead by example,” said Congressman Oberstar, “If we can’t make the Department of Energy start saving electricity, it will be impossible to ask private industry do the same.”

One of the major components in the bill provides \$1.7 billion to increase the use of

rural and urban mass transit systems. This is one of the key issues in our fight for energy independence, a 10% mode shift in transportation, i.e. moving 10% of all trips made by car to a mass transit system, would save the equivalent of oil we import from Saudi Arabia. One state, New Jersey, has already met this goal. “There are 800,000 passengers a day in New Jersey,” Oberstar said, “they have a 10% mode shift in both rail and bus service; it’s a marvel of transportation.”

The bill also includes \$250 million for short-line and regional railroads to improve rail lines and infrastructure. It focuses on alternative transportation for shipping freight. “Instead of using trucks to move most of our goods, we need to start investing in

freight rail and even water transportation to move goods,” said Oberstar. The bill also has some regional benefits; it will establish short-sea shipping on the great lakes, with \$2 billion in loans to help shippers build a new class of cargo ships.

Finally, the bill contains legislation aimed at making government buildings more energy efficient. The use of solar panels, as well as energy efficient light bulbs, will aid in the reduction of energy costs. “The Transportation Committee has jurisdiction over 367 million square feet of federal office space,” Oberstar said, “Those buildings consume % 5.8 billion a year in electricity costs. We can start cutting those costs right now.”

## Airport Grants for Northeastern Minnesota

Congressman Jim Oberstar has announced that six airports in Northeastern Minnesota will receive federal funding for technology and safety improvements. The airport managers were notified earlier this month that they will receive Federal Aviation Administration Grants. “These are important investments,” Oberstar said, “Airports are vital links to the global market place. They bring people and ideas into our state and send Minnesota Products around the world.”

Airports receiving FAA Grants:

**Duluth International Airport:** \$1,058,300 to improve the terminal building to accommodate new service and to upgrade runway apron.

**International Falls International Airport:** \$300,000 to improve runway safety.

**Longville Municipal Airport:** \$239,685 for snow removal equipment.

**Mora Municipal Airport:** \$3,025,750 for runway reconstruction and extension, to

upgrade aprons and taxiways and to install runway visual guidance systems.

**Park Rapids Municipal Airport – Konshok Field:** \$450,000 to expand runway apron and remove obstructions.

**Tower Municipal Airport:** \$242,250 to acquire snow removal equipment, enhance runway safety and update the airport master plan study.

# Jim Oberstar

## WORKING for you for minnesota

### Contact the Campaign!

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### Jim Meets With Associated General Contractors



# Jim Oberstar

**WORKING** for you   
for minnesota

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me about—

The Oberstar Democracy Project

Volunteering

Traveling around MN to support Democrats

Placing a lawn sign in my yard

Writing a letter to the editor

Using my name and testimonial

**Oberstar**  
**Democracy Project**

Please sign me up for—

The Oberstar Democracy Project

E-mail updates from Jim

Please share your story about Jim:

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