

# 10<sup>th</sup> AMENDMENT TASK FORCE

*Federalism: The Founders' Formula for Freedom*



A project of the Republican Study Committee ([RSC](#))

## 10<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT TASK FORCE BILL OF THE WEEK

This week the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment Task Force is highlighting **H.R. 2018, the Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act** introduced by Rep. John Mica (FL-07). The Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act seeks to restore a better balance between the States and Federal Government when it comes to implementation of the Clean Water Act mandates.

The Clean Water Act was originally intended to be a partnership between the States and the Federal Government by authorizing the States to be the lead authority for water quality programs and permits. However, over time, we have seen a number of regulatory abuses and examples of gross overreach by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that have upset the intended balance between federal and state partners which undermined the system of cooperative federalism established in the Clean Water Act. The EPA's actions have pulled the rug out from under the States in a very capricious and arrogant manner, infringing on state sovereignty and helping to create an atmosphere of regulatory uncertainty for businesses and local governments. In many instances, this new uncertainty has had a negative impact on businesses, both large and small, and has most certainly contributed to the negative impacts on the nation's economy and the inability of this Administration to create jobs and reduce unemployment below 9 percent, despite record spending and crushing debt.

The Clear Water Cooperative Federalism Act is a common-sense and targeted approach at correcting for these abuses. It also directly addresses the second goal of the Task Force to *"Develop proposals to disperse power to regional entities, states, local governments, private institutions, community groups, families and individuals."*

We strongly encourage all Members of the Task Force to support the Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act when it comes to the floor later today.