

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy
December 9, 2022

Don't Know What To Get Your Loved Ones This Holiday Season? Congress Is Here For You.

What could possibly say “I love you. I care about you. I value you in my life” more than a 4,408 page print out of the [recently agreed upon](#), bipartisan, bicameral [James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023](#)? Maybe nothing. Maybe not even a [champagne refrigerator](#). Now, at this point, you may be thinking, “What the hell is wrong with these Tulane water people? Did the [Restore America's Estuaries Summit](#) break their brains?” Well, maybe, but hear us out. This year, the National Defense Authorization Act is way more interesting and not restricted to the niche and obscure concern of national defense. This year, it includes the Water Resources Development Act, the A-#1 act of Congress for every water nerd out there, and who, in their heart of hearts, isn't a water nerd? It's a universal favorite. Like Dolly Parton.

So, any loved one lucky enough to be gifted NDAA by you can turn to Section 8, beginning on page 3,160, and dive right in where the waters are warm and inviting. What will they find there? So much! Provisions about permitting. Sections authorizing new studies. Deauthorizations and modifications of old projects. And here's the thing, each one is a keyhole view into a different scene. It's like a [View-Master](#) with a thousand slides. [Slides of what?](#) Who knows! But there's gotta be a story behind each and every one of them. Such as Section 8354, Israel River, Lancaster, New Hampshire. The project there was authorized in 1948, and it's now getting deauthorized. Don't you want to find out what it was? Why it's coming off the books now, 74 years later? See? It's [the gift that keeps on giving the whole year](#), because who knows how long it'll take you to get through it. So, let us know which of the not-countless-but-might-as-well-be-countless sections you're most excited to share with your loved ones this year.

Of course, if you like to wait until the last minute, you can wait for the Senate to sign-off. It's expected to hit the floor next week.

Why is Big Pharma So Powerful When There's Plenty of Drugs in our Water for Free?

We don't need to tell you that water is awesome, but [it is](#). So what? So, it can carry in it many, many things. Over the past generation or so, we've learned just what it's often carrying, like drugs. Lots and lots of drugs. Similar to how they've been tracking COVID outbreaks through cities' wastewater systems, there's also a growing body of scientific evidence that it's [a great way to track drug use](#). Lately, that's meant finding out that there's [a whole lotta meth use in Shreveport, LA](#). Like, twice as much as would usually be

The **Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy** is a program of the Tulane University Law School.

The Institute is dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of the vital role that water plays in our society and of the importance of the legal and policy framework that shapes the uses and legal stewardship of water.

Coming Up:

[CRCL Lecture with Clint Willson](#); December 13; Baton Rouge, LA

[Hypoxia Task Force Public Meeting](#); December 14; Washington, D.C. and Virtual

Tulane Environmental and Energy Law Summit; March 17-18; New Orleans, LA

[2023 State of the Coast Conference](#); May 31-June 2; New Orleans, LA

Water jobs:

[Assistant Professor of Marine Affairs: Fisheries Management and Policy](#); University of Rhode Island; Kingston, RI

[Restoration Programs Director](#); Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana; New Orleans, LA

[Regional Watershed Coordinator](#); Capitol Region Planning Commission; Baton Rouge, LA

[Water Quality Technician](#); Pontchartrain Conservancy; Metairie, LA

[Associate Attorney, Senior Attorney, and Paralegal](#); Earthjustice; Multiple Locations

[Staff Attorney](#); WaterWatch of Oregon; Portland, OR

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expected. As we all learned from Breaking Bad, we can probably expect other issues in the region. Keep an eye on your chemistry teachers. Also, it turns out that beginning with the start of the pandemic, people in the college town of Lowell, MA started using [a lot more opioids and stimulants](#). At least they didn't find a huge increase in dewormer meds?

Speaking of drugs intended for animals, it's not just people drugs filling up our waterways (it turns out water treatment plants are way better at getting, shall we say, solid wastes out of our wastewater than dissolved chemicals, so, yeah, this isn't just in the wastewater. It's out there in the waters everywhere). It's also drugs like antibiotics that we love to fill our cows, pigs, and chickens with. So, say you wanted to visit where Harry, Ron, & Hermione hide out in one of those wizard movies. You'd want to go to [the Wye Valley in Wales](#). But while you were there, you might have a better than fair chance of [running into antibiotic-resistant E.coli or staphylococcus](#). That's thanks to runoff from chicken farms there that keep their livestock (mostly) healthy by keeping them full of antibiotics, giving the bugs they're trying to avoid plenty of chances to develop resistance to them. Wonder what's the spell to cure antibiotic-resistant infections.

Hey! We're Still Looking For...

The top water songs of 2022 and we need your help because, despite our best efforts to do nothing but sit around listening to music and watching TikTok videos, work keeps getting in the way. That's where you come in. What do you think were the best water songs of the year? And by "best" we don't necessarily mean good—you get the picture. Our [panel of experts](#) will review all submissions and compile the definitive playlist, a top 14 list and maybe even bestow a [meaningless award](#) to the top tune. This is more important to the economy than your holiday shopping. Vote early, vote often! [We even made this Google form for your submissions!](#)