

HR 4304

Defense of Environment and Property Act of 2012

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Mar 29, 2012

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. (Mar 30, 2012)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/house-bill/4304>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Rooney, Thomas J. [R-FL-16]

Party: Republican • **State:** FL • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Labrador, Raul R. [R-ID-1]	R · ID		Mar 29, 2012
Rep. Thompson, Glenn [R-PA-5]	R · PA		Mar 29, 2012
Rep. Scott, Tim [R-SC-1]	R · SC		Apr 18, 2012
Rep. Amodei, Mark E. [R-NV-2]	R · NV		Apr 27, 2012
Rep. Lummis, Cynthia M. [R-WY-At Large]	R · WY		Jun 26, 2012

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 30, 2012
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 30, 2012

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 S 2122	Related bill	Feb 16, 2012: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Defense of Environment and Property Act of 2012 - Amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the Clean Water Act) to redefine "navigable waters" to specify that included territorial seas are those that are: (1) navigable-in-fact; or (2) permanent, standing, or continuously flowing bodies of water that form geographical features commonly known as streams, oceans, rivers, and lakes that are connected to waters that are navigable-in-fact. Excludes from such term: (1) waters that do not physically abut navigable waters and lack a continuous surface water connection to navigable waters; (2) man-made or natural structures or channels through which water flows intermittently or ephemerally, or that periodically provide drainage for rainfall; or (3) wetlands without a continuous surface connection to bodies of water that are waters of the United States.

Prohibits activities carried out by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the Army Corps of Engineers from impinging upon states' power over land and water use.

Prohibits: (1) aggregation of such excluded wetlands or waters from being used to determine or assert federal jurisdiction; and (2) wetlands without a continuous surface connection to bodies of water that are waters of the United States from being considered to be under federal jurisdiction.

Authorizes states to appeal jurisdictional determinations by the Administrator that would affect their ability to plan the development and use of land and water resources for 30 days after such determination.

Considers ground water to be state water. Prohibits ground water from being considered in determining or asserting federal jurisdiction over isolated or other waters.

Prohibits the Administrator from using a significant nexus test to determine federal jurisdiction over navigable waters and waters of the United States.

Gives no force or effect to: (1) the Corps' rule entitled "Final Rule for Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers"; (2) EPA's proposed rule entitled "Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the Clean Water Act Regulatory Definition of 'Waters of the United States'"; (3) the guidance document entitled "Clean Water Act Jurisdiction Following the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision in *Rapanos v. United States* & *Carabell v. United States* (relating to the definition of waters under the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act); and (4) any subsequent regulation of or guidance issued by federal agencies that defines or interprets the term "navigable waters."

Prohibits the Corps and EPA from promulgating rules or issuing guidance that expands or interprets the definition of navigable waters unless expressly authorized by Congress.

Sets forth provisions requiring federal agencies to obtain consent of private property owners prior to entering their land to collect information about navigable waters.

Requires federal agencies that issue regulations that relate to the definition of navigable waters or waters of the United States and diminish the fair market value or economic viability of a property to pay the affected property owner an amount equal to twice the value of the loss. Gives no force or effect to such regulation until landowners with such claims have been compensated.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 30, 2012:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.
- **Mar 30, 2012:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.
- **Mar 29, 2012:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 29, 2012:** Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.