

Barrasso opposes water proposal

CODY - Sen. John Barrasso says he opposes efforts to expand the reach of the federal government over all water sources within the United States.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing Wednesday on the "Clean Water Restoration Act." Barrasso is a member of the committee, and he says the bill would amend the 1977 Clean Water Act to expand the reach of federal jurisdiction to include all water currently under state control.

Barrasso said the bill would harm Wyoming agriculture, commercial and residential real estate development, as well as mining. The Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems and the Wyoming Stock Growers Association also oppose the bill.

The committee chairwoman, Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., said the bill is necessary because of decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court. Boxer said several Supreme Court decisions have made it unclear when the Clean Water Act should be applied.