

NACPRO



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION OFFICIALS

An Affiliate of National Association of Counties and the National Recreation and Park Association

2016-17 Executive Board

President

John Knight
Director
Shawnee County Parks & Recreation
3137 SE 29th Street
Topeka, KS 66605-1885
Phone: 785-251-2600
John.Knight@snco.us

Past President

Scott Bangle
General Manager
Riverside County Regional Park & Open
Space District
4600 Crestmore Road
Jurupa Valley, CA 92509
Phone: 951-955-4398
SBangle@rivcoparks.org

President Elect

Bill Maasen
Superintendent Parks & Golf Courses
Johnson County Parks and Recreation
7904 Renner Road
Shawnee Mission, KS 66219
Phone: 913-826-3437
Bill.Maasen@jocogov.org

Vice President

Dale "Doc" Dougherty
Director
Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation
6701 Waterton Drive
Riverview, FL 33578
Phone: 813-610-7094
daledoc@aol.com

Secretary

Reginald Moore
Director
Macon Bibb County Parks and Recreation
PO Box 247
Macon, GA 31202
Phone: 478-751-9288
rmoore@maconbibb.us

Treasurer

Brande Hune
Bureau Chief
Riverside County Regional Park & Open
Space District
4600 Crestmore Road
Jurupa Valley, CA 92509
Phone: 951-955-4189
bhune@rivcoparks.org

Association Manager

Brenda Adams-Weyant
PO Box 74
Marienville, PA 16239
Phone: 814-927-8212
Fax: 814-927-6659
BrendaAW@verizon.net

May 30, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA)

Dear Senator McConnell:

I am writing to express the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials' (NACPRO) strong opposition to the inclusion of the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) in the U.S. Coast Guard Authorization Act or any other measure moving in 2017. VIDA would dramatically weaken the Clean Water Act and undermine our nation's ability to combat the spread of invasive aquatic species. VIDA would roll back ballast water cleanup rules and throw away the most effective tools we have for preventing harmful invasive species from entering our waterways.

Since the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959, ships' ballast water discharges have been widely recognized as a primary source for the introduction and spread of invasive species into the Great Lakes, and many of our nation's other waters. Invasive species cost federal and state taxpayers more than \$8 billion annually - including hundreds of millions of dollars in the Great Lakes alone - in damage to public water supplies, energy generation systems, and commercial and recreational fisheries.

Bills to support our nation's military and maritime needs should not become places to include provisions that would threaten the health of our country's greatest freshwater resource, the Great Lakes. I urge you to remove this harmful amendment from the U.S. Coast Guard Authorization Act.

Stopping invasive species before they enter the Great Lakes is critical to the health of the lakes and the millions of people that rely on them. We have made important progress toward this goal and now is not the time to go backward. I urge you to prevent this harmful provision from being attached to any legislation moving this year.

Sincerely,

John Knight, President
National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials