

Water is our lifeline.

We must protect it.



Helping Arkansans secure and sustain our clean, fresh water



Arkansans has some of the cleanest, freshest water in the world, but we must act now to protect it.

- ◆ Water is our state's most vital and valuable resource.
- ◆ Arkansas faces many challenges including pollution, depletion, and mismanagement that threaten the viability of our rivers, lakes, and streams.

Leaders within the Panel-supported Citizens First Congress helped pass legislation revising our State Water Plan and ensuring a public and transparent planning process

- ◆ Arkansas needs a comprehensive State Water Plan that manages both quantity AND quality of water within our rivers, lakes, and streams.
- ◆ Many residents in the state depend on natural sources for clean, fresh water. They must have a voice in determining policies that affect those water sources.
- ◆ The planning process for developing the State Water Plan must be based on strong science. It must ensure accountability by being clearly defined and transparent.
- ◆ Regulatory agencies and industry leaders have adopted new rules, and regulations, best management practices based on proposals and advocacy from landowners working with the Citizens First Congress.

State agencies and industry leaders have adopted new rules and practices to promote safer drilling and cleaner water thanks to advocacy from landowners and activists.

1. Arkansas needs better oversight for the natural gas industry that protects landowners' rights as well as water and air quality.
2. Stronger enforcement of regulations, remediation for violators, and working partnerships between landowners, activists, industry representatives and regulators will ensure a balance of environmental safety along with economic benefits.

Protecting our water requires a comprehensive approach:

1. Increasing public awareness and knowledge

The Panel has produced several reports available on our website, which inform the public about issues that affect water quality in the state. We have co-hosted educational meetings to engage residents and encourage them to get involved. Our approach emphasizes the need for public input with thorough analysis based on good science and comprehensive data.



2. Organizing residents to influence water policy

The Panel is helping landowners connect with conservation groups. The two are organizing into a new coalition group, United for Responsible Gas Drilling (URGE). We provide training on how the political process works, managing organizational infrastructure, and strategic planning. Our organizing efforts help develop leaders who will hold Arkansas public officials accountable and advocate for policies that protect our water.



3. Building partnerships to enhance our effectiveness

We are a part of the Water Future Coalition, along with Audubon Arkansas, and The Nature Conservancy's Arkansas Field Office. This partnership allows us to increase our ability to reach residents and legislators who can improve our state's water policy and work towards a comprehensive plan that ensures the viability of our water.



4. Policy Advocacy

Landowners and activists have been advocating for stronger oversight of the natural gas industry to protect water from contaminants, while negotiating with industry officials to encourage better drilling practices. Leaders from our partner organizations have been appointed to the Water Source Protection Task Force and the Water Quality Task Force, where they are pushing to preserve our clean, fresh water sources



**Arkansans are taking action now to ensure the viability of our fresh water sources.
We need your help to make sure our water stays clean!**