

Talking Points for Business Telephone Calls

- [Introduce yourself and your company.]
- A child dies from water-borne illness every fifteen seconds. Diseases related to unclean water kill between three and five million people each year, and cause an estimated 80 percent of all sicknesses in the developing world.
- Historically, water development has been dramatically underfunded for such an important form of aid – it is critical to public health, to economic productivity, and to preventing conflicts.
- [Briefly explain why water development is important to your company – for example, because it prevents economic development in key areas; because competition for water is leading to violence and political instability in key areas; because your company depends on people having access to clean water; because water is necessary in order to ensure proper medication, etc.]
- There is real momentum behind solving this problem. Congress passed the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act (P.L. 109-121) and increased funding for water development to \$200 million two years ago. This year, the House of Representatives has further increased funding to \$300 million.
- It is important that the funding be tied to specific statutory language (not report language) requiring that the money be spent to implement the Water for the Poor Act. That is the only guarantee that the money will actually be spent as Congress intends.
- In addition, we challenge the Senate to further increase the amount of funding for safe drinking water and sanitation above the House level. As much as \$500 million could be spent effectively, and the need is even greater than that.
- [Personal story about water development, if applicable]