

## Talking Points for Grassroots Phone Calls

- *Identify yourself and explain your relationship with the Senator.*
  - I am a constituent, personal friend, etc.
- *Explain why you are calling.*
  - It is very important to me that we continue to increase funding for safe, clean drinking water and sanitation worldwide.
  - It is also important to me that we properly implement and support the Water for the Poor Act.
- *Tell about any personal experience you have with safe water programs.*
  - Example: my church/civic organization sponsors a project in the developing world. (If you are not involved with a water development program, skip onto the next talking point.)
- *Explain that the lack of access to safe water is a huge problem worldwide.*
  - More than 1 billion people lack access to clean drinking water and more than 2.6 billion people lack access to basic sanitation.
  - Diseases related to unclean water kill a child every 15 seconds, and between three and five million people each year. They cause an estimated 80 percent of all sicknesses in the developing world.
  - There is real momentum behind solving this problem. Congress passed the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act 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.
- *Ask your Senator to increase funding for water development programs.*
  - It is important that the funding be tied to specific language in the bill 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.
  - The Senate should 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.