

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Western Carolina's NACWA Public Service Nomination SC Rep. Harrison Wins at State Level

Greenville, S.C. (March 18, 2008) – For his outstanding advocacy for environmental stewardship, Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority nominated South Carolina State Rep. James Hodges Harrison for the 2007 Public Service Award from the National Association for Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). Western Carolina is proud to announce that Rep. Harrison was selected to receive this award at the State level.

The National Environmental Achievement Awards (NEAA) annually recognize individuals and member agencies that have made outstanding contributions to environmental protection and wastewater management. The NEAA Public Service Award is given to current or former elected or appointed public officials at the local, state and federal levels of government who have demonstrated exemplary commitment and service to their community, the environment and to NACWA.

As chair of the South Carolina House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, one of Rep. Harrison's most important environmental accomplishments was his sponsorship of a bill to amend the appeals process of the Human Affairs Commission. The bill, which became law, allows any permit approved or denied by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), or other state agency, to be appealed to the administrative law judge for final ruling. This means DHEC's responsibilities focus solely on policy-making, rather than the judicial role it previously held.

By removing this judicial power, environmental agencies and other organizations throughout the state are now able to appeal permit decisions directly to the courts if it is determined that the permit approval or declination will in some way harm the environment or watershed. This unique bill ultimately allows environmental organizations to have a louder voice in advocating for issues that are important to their community.

Western Carolina applauds Rep. Harrison for his dedication to the environment and proudly presents him with the NACWA 2007 Public Service Award.

About WCRSA

Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority is a clean water provider for more than 400,000 industrial, commercial and residential customers in Greenville County and parts of Anderson,

Spartanburg and Laurens Counties. Western Carolina operates and maintains 300 miles of major sewer trunk lines and 10 major wastewater treatment facilities.

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Caption: Western Carolina Executive Director Ray Orvin (left) presents the 2007 NACWA Public Service Award to Rep. James Hodges Harrison (right).