



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAYOR WILLIAMS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES CAPITAL RIVER RELIEF 2006

Coalition Comes Together to Clean Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, Innovative Trash Containment Booms Unveiled

WASHINGTON – Capital River Relief, the most ambitious cleanup of the capital region’s rivers, was officially launched today by Anthony Williams, mayor of Washington, D.C.

"Clean and healthy rivers are vital to sustaining the growth and prosperity of our great city," said Mayor Williams. "When we bring people together for a project like Capital River Relief, it demonstrates our commitment and passion to improving our natural environment and making Washington, D.C. an even better place to live. I appreciate the commitment of the organizations and individuals who are helping with this important clean-up effort."

Capital River Relief is an annual large-scale cleanup of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, bringing together a working coalition of environmental groups, businesses, government and community organizations. The coalition is led by river dynamo Chad Pregracke, a recipient of the prestigious Jefferson Award for Public Service, and his Living Lands & Waters team and the Earth Conservation Corps, along with the support of lead sponsor Koch Industries, Inc. The project will run through May 15, with a special Earth Day celebration on April 20.

"Koch Industries recognizes the importance of working together to improve our environment," said Matt Schlapp, executive director of federal government affairs for Koch Industries. "Although Capital River Relief will go a long way toward making the Potomac and Anacostia rivers trash free, it is critical that everyone take an active role in cleaning these treasures."

Since its inception in 2004, CRR has removed almost 300 tons of trash from the Potomac and Anacostia rivers with the help of hundreds of volunteers, businesses and community leaders. In 2006, CRR plans to install trash containment booms designed by Pregracke that will catch garbage expelled at storm water outfalls. This innovative tactic will enhance the sustainability of the annual land- and water-based cleanup efforts. The Earth Conservation Corps, a local project partner, will clean and maintain the booms throughout the year.

"Capital River Relief has made great progress in the effort to clean DC’s rivers and 2006 will be bigger and better," Pregracke said. "We have extended our stay here, added more volunteers and are planning to install trash containment booms that will make our efforts more sustainable throughout the year and hopefully decrease our work next year."

Members of Congress and representatives from the Administration joined in the launch event to show their support for Capital River Relief. In attendance were U.S. Senator Sam Brownback, R- Kan., member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Committee on the Judiciary and Chairman of the DC Appropriations Subcommittee; U.S. Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Calif., chairman of the House Resources Committee; U.S. Rep. Todd Tiahrt, R-Kan., member of the House Appropriations Committee, DC Appropriations Subcommittee; Edwin Pinero; federal environmental executive, Office of the Federal Environmental Executive; and Susan Parker Bodine, assistant administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

MEDIA NOTES: To speak with a CRR spokesperson or schedule a visit to the cleanup, please contact Brian Wesolowski at 202-414-0779, brian@susandavis.com or Ben Becker at 202-414-0781, bbecker@susandavis.com. For more information on Capital River Relief, visit www.CapitalRiverRelief.org.