



**For Immediate Release
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CAPITAL RIVER RELIEF “TEAM UP TO CLEAN UP” RETURNS TO POTOMAC, ANACOSTIA RIVERS

Local, National Groups Unite For Unique Cleanup Effort On DC, VA and MD Shorelines

WASHINGTON, DC – Capital River Relief, which in 2004 removed more than 40 tons of garbage from the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, returns to the Washington, D.C. area beginning March 31 and culminating on April 22, Earth Day.

Capital River Relief's “*Team Up to Clean Up*” effort brings together a working coalition to clean and restore the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers organized by founding sponsor, Koch Industries, Inc. and Doug Siglin of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Anacostia River Initiative. The 2005 cleanup coalition is led by the Alexandria Seaport Foundation, Alice Ferguson Foundation, Anacostia Watershed Society, Potomac Conservancy, and national environmental entrepreneur Chad Pregracke, bringing his Living Lands & Waters cleanup crew from the Midwest.

“I am thrilled to again be working with these great local groups. They've worked for years to care for these rivers and help people understand we all play a role in preserving our environment,” said Pregracke. A former commercial fisherman who founded Living Lands & Waters in his early 20s, Pregracke works full time cleaning rivers, including the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio, in addition to the Potomac and Anacostia. He has been honored by First Lady Laura Bush and profiled in publications including *Time*, *People*, *Reader's Digest* and *Smithsonian Magazine*.

“Capital River Relief is a great example of local and national organizations and hundreds of volunteers teaming up to make a visible and important difference in the care of our rivers,” said Mary Beth Jarvis of Koch Industries. “We're proud to organize and sponsor the project again this year, and we look forward to seeing the barge piled high with trash removed from the river banks.”

Capital River Relief 2005 will kick off March 31, with a press event and volunteer cleanups, and run through April 22, Earth Day. It will include cleanups organized by Alice Ferguson Foundation (April 2) and Anacostia Watershed Society (April 16). Local volunteer groups, universities, Congressional staffers, government officials and local and national celebrities will staff other cleanup days. A closing event will take place on Earth Day, April 22.

Capital River Relief teams will have river access from Living Lands & Waters boats and a 140-foot trash barge, so they can reach areas not typically accessed by land-based cleanups. The boats will dock near the Belle Haven Marina, along the Alexandria, Va., Waterfront. Cleanup sites for Capital River Relief 2005 will include sites on the Potomac near the Georgetown Waterfront, shorelines at the confluence of the Potomac and Anacostia, and the banks of the Anacostia near the Washington Navy Yard. Capital River Relief 2005 will coincide with the arrival of Major League Baseball's Washington Nationals and be a key component of beautifying areas surrounding the current home of the Nationals, RFK Stadium, and the site of the Nationals' future home.

Coalition Members

Living Lands & Waters, Alexandria Seaport Foundation, Alice Ferguson Foundation, Anacostia Watershed Society, Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Anacostia River Initiative, and Potomac Conservancy.

Sponsors

Koch Industries, Inc., Pepco, Whole Foods, Mimi's American Bistro, Ritz Camera, Hunton & Williams LLP, Sempra Energy and Rosenthal Automotive

About Capital River Relief 2005 (www.CapitalRiverRelief.org)

Capital River Relief 2005 will sponsor eleven days of cleanups of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers: March 31, April 1, 2 (with Alice Ferguson Foundation), 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14 and 16 (with Anacostia Watershed Society). Cleanups will run from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1 to 5 p.m.

About Alice Ferguson Foundation (www.fergusonfoundation.org)

The Alice Ferguson Foundation was established in 1954 to provide experiences that encourage connections between people, the natural environment, farming and the cultural heritage of the Potomac River Watershed, which lead to personal environmental responsibility.

About Anacostia Watershed Society (www.anacostiaws.org)

The Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) is a non-profit environmental organization working to protect and restore the Anacostia River and its watershed. AWS seeks to fulfill its mandate of a swimmable and fishable river through its programs of education, action and advocacy.

About Living Lands & Waters (www.livinglandsandwaters.org)

Living Lands & Waters, established by Chad Pregracke in 1998, is headquartered in East Moline, Illinois. Living Lands & Waters programs include Community Cleanups, Big River Educational Workshops, Riverbottom Forest Restoration and Adopt-a-Mississippi Mile.

About Koch Industries, Inc. (www.kochind.com)

Koch Industries, Inc. owns a diverse group of companies with more than 30,000 employees engaged in trading, investment and operations worldwide. Koch Industries and its companies are involved in petroleum, resins and fibers, chemicals, natural gas liquids, chemical technology products, asphalt, minerals, fertilizers, ranching, pipelines, and securities and finance.

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Media Notes:

To receive more information about Capital River Relief 2005, request volunteer information please contact Michael Toole at 202-414-0772 or Michael@capitalriverrelief.org

