



## **Congresswoman Lois Capps Introduces New Environmental Education Bill** *Legislation Would Bolster NOAA's Key Environmental Literacy Programs*

WASHINGTON (September 24)—Today Congresswoman Lois Capps (D-CA) introduced H.R. 3644, a bill to bolster the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) environmental and conservation education programs.

The new bill would authorize a national Environmental Literacy Grant program as well as a regional Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program focused on local watersheds education. The legislation gradually increases funding levels over 5 years for both grant programs and authorizes new regional B-WET programs in major watersheds nationwide.

**Kevin Coyle, Vice President of Education and Training, said today:**

“The National Wildlife Federation applauds Congresswoman Capps for developing this important legislation to bolster critical NOAA environmental education programs that will give young people a better understanding of their local watersheds and help ensure our next generation of conservation stewards.

“Hands-on environmental education helps children learn about the world around them. It is a world they will inherit and must learn to take care of. Environmental education is also good for student academic performance and hands-on environmental education connects children with nature. This legislation will provide opportunities for young people to ‘Be Out There’ and spend time outdoors learning about their local watersheds, bays, estuaries and coastal areas.”

“In addition to the many academic and conservation benefits of environmental education, business leaders increasingly believe that an environmentally literate workforce is critical to America's competitiveness in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”

NWF's [Be Out There](http://www.beoutthere.org)<sup>™</sup> campaign was designed to get families across the United States to open the door and get outside. A daily dose of the outdoors improves children's physical, mental and emotional well being. The benefits of outdoor play are real: healthier kids with a life-long appreciation of wildlife and nature. Visit [www.beoutthere.org](http://www.beoutthere.org).

*National Wildlife Federation is America's largest conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. Visit [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org).*

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