

# Government Litigation Savings Act



## Support Transparency in the Use of Taxpayer Dollars!

The Government Litigation Savings Act (H.R. 1996 and S. 1061) would restore much-needed government accountability and transparency in the distribution of Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) and Judgment Funds.

### What is EAJA?

- EAJA allows small businesses, individuals and public interest groups that are parties to litigation against the government to recover attorney fees and costs if they are the prevailing party. **These collected fees are a direct use of taxpayer dollars.**
- Passed in 1980, the Act requires the public reporting of payments made to these plaintiffs. Despite reporting requirements, **the government has not disclosed payment information since 1995.**

### The Bottom Line:

- There is a lack of accountability and transparency in the administration and distribution of EAJA payments.
- Conservationists believe the lack of oversight leads to abuse of the EAJA, and results in fewer resources available for on-the-ground natural resource improvements.

### How the Government Litigation Savings Act would Help:

- The Government Litigation Savings Act would prevent organizations whose net worth exceeds \$7 million from filing for EAJA payments, require that EAJA filers show a “direct and personal monetary interest” in the action to be eligible for payments and limit the number of annual reimbursements and amount a filer may receive.
- The bill would also cap total EAJA reimbursements to \$200,000 for any single action and allows no more than three EAJA awards in one calendar year;
- And establish an online database of those that have received payment from EAJA and require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct an audit of payments made over the last 15 years.
- **The Government Litigation Savings Act would bring transparency and accountability to a flawed system that has led to the abuse of taxpayer dollars.**

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National Association of Conservation Districts