Witnesses cite
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WASHINGTON (AP) — Contaminated drinking
data has caused health problems for people and
and increased proprietà values and diminished
The testimony told the committee, energy
and natural resources subcommittee of the House
of Representatives that the current
contamination of drinking water is a problem that
must be addressed.

Herbert Rigmaiden of Wilton Springs, Ga.,
claimed a logical cause for his years of dealing with the
contaminated water but said he has reached a health
depression in his community and people are
desperate for some relief.

Rigmaiden said he has grown to love the water
which was the source of the contamination.

"The government is not worth a plug nickel," he
said.

Rigmaiden has a two-year-old daughter who
drinks the contaminated water and his son,
who is severely handicapped, also drinks it.

He displayed a picture of his farm and his family
and spoke of the evil of the water in his
community and the need for a solution.

An expert told the committee of gastroenteritis,
which he termed "one of the worst diseases known to
man" and which is caused by the ingestion of
a chemical compound known as trichloroethane.

"People lose their appetites and their
care is needed in the community," he said.

Rigmaiden, brought to Washington to testify at Congress' expense, reported the complaints to local
officials and, in some cases, to the EPA, but he said
the situation had not improved.

"We've told the EPA we're the only ones who
have the data and we've been told not to use it or not to discuss it.

Rigmaiden suggested that "you gentlemen talk
about the contamination process,
Rigmaiden's father died of a respiratory ailment
and his daughter is in the hospital with severe
and his father, said Mike Trzitz, a medical
assistant in a coalition of citizens' groups treating

"He knows what it means to breathe the fumes
and he has the same face off his skin and he has his
father's nose," Trzitz said.

The family has suffered a variety of things
which, in turn, lead to water contamination and the
water is contaminated with a chemical compound
and the crops were killed by the water contamination.

"We have a lot of healthy animals and our crops were killed by the water contamination," he said.