



April 30, 2015

Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Barbara Boxer
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Inhofe and Boxer:

The Waters Advocacy Coalition (WAC) strongly supports the *Federal Water Quality Protection Act* and urges swift action by the Senate to approve the bill. WAC is committed to working with the legislation's sponsors, Senators Barrasso and Donnelly, to advance that objective.

WAC is a broad coalition representing the nation's construction, real estate, mining, agriculture, transportation, forestry, manufacturing, and energy sectors, as well as wildlife conservation and recreation interests. WAC supports the *Federal Water Quality Protection Act* because it offers an excellent glide path to a revised "waters of the U.S." (WOTUS) rule that will improve the quality of the nation's navigable waters, ensure the ability of all Americans to engage in robust economic activity, and earn broad support from state and local officials and the regulated community.

There is significant disagreement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the states, local governments, and the regulated community about the scope and effect of the WOTUS rule jointly proposed and soon to be finalized by EPA and the Corps. The procedural requirements contained in the bill, together with the substantive guidance that has been incorporated based, in large part, on public commitments made by the agencies, will allow EPA and the Corps to finalize a rule that achieves the appropriate clarity and certainty sought by all sides of the WOTUS issue.

EPA has characterized the WOTUS rulemaking as important with long lasting effects. Thirty-seven states have voiced strong opposition to the rule, including 27 states that joined the national organizations of mayors, cities and county officials in asking EPA to withdraw the rule and start over. Congress should act now to ensure that the rulemaking is done well and that the many concerns expressed about the proposed rule are properly addressed within the jurisdictional limitations imposed by Congress and affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

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Accordingly, we will urge your Senate colleagues to cosponsor and vote “yes” on the *Federal Water Quality Protection Act*.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Exploration & Mining Association
Association of American Railroads
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Forest & Paper Association
American Gas Association
American Petroleum Institute
American Public Power Association
American Road & Transportation Builders Association
American Society of Golf Course Architects
Associated Builders and Contractors
The Associated General Contractors of America
Association of American Railroads
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
Association of Oil Pipe Lines
Club Managers Association of America
Corn Refiners Association
CropLife America
Edison Electric Institute
Federal Forest Resources Coalition
The Fertilizer Institute
Florida Sugar Cane League
Foundation for Environmental and Economic Progress (FEEP)
Golf Course Builders Association of America
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
The Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA)
Industrial Minerals Association – North America
International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC)
International Liquid Terminals Association (ILTA)
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA)
Irrigation Association
NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association
National Association of Home Builders
Leading Builders of America
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of REALTORS®
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Club Association
National Corn Growers Association

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National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Golf Course Owners Association of America
National Industrial Sand Association
National Mining Association
National Multifamily Housing Council
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council (NPPC)
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (NSSGA)
Portland Cement Association
Public Lands Council
Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE)
Southern Crop Production Association
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association
Sports Turf Managers Association
Texas Wildlife Association
Treated Wood Council
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

cc: Honorable John Barrasso
Honorable Joe Donnelly