



January 11, 2016

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 250,000 businesses, and more than 325,000 entrepreneurs, executives, managers and investors we represent, the American Sustainable Business Council (ASBC) urges you to vote against the Congressional Review Act (S.J. Res. 22) overturning the EPA's Clean Water Rule.

Clean water is good for business, and companies like the ones we represent know it. They need it for their operations and for the overall health of their communities. Repealing this rule would not protect economic growth; it would put it at risk.

The EPA's rule comes out of a broad desire among all stakeholders, following the Supreme Court's rulings in 2001 and 2006, to clarify what the EPA's jurisdiction is under the Clean Water Act. This ruling is based on sound science, and does not expand the agency's power under the Clean Water Act, only clarifying of what bodies of water it protects.

Of greatest concern to us, however, is the argument that this rule will jeopardize economic growth. From our experience, the real risk to our economy comes when clean water protections no longer exist, and businesses lose control over a crucial input in food and beverage production, tourism, manufacturing, and any number of industries.

The EPA's rule gives the business community more confidence that clean water sources, including streams and rivers, are protected, and removes uncertainty surrounding the agency's authority to protect our waterways. This is good for the economy, and vital for businesses that rely on clean water for their success.

The business community was given ample opportunity to share its concerns and inform the EPA of the rule's potential impact during the months-long comment period - as evidenced by the more than 1 million comments submitted during that time - and the EPA had abundant time to take any concerns into account and use them to improve the rule.

Clean water remains a necessity for so many American industries, from agriculture to manufacturing to tourism to food and drink production. And it's what businesses across the political spectrum want - national, scientific polling from the American Sustainable Business Council found 80% of small business owners favored rules protecting upstream headwaters, as the EPA's rule would do, and 71% said that clean water protections are necessary to ensure economic growth.

Congress needs to let this rule stand, not create more uncertainty for American businesses. We urge you to vote against Congressional Review Act (S.J. Res. 22). American businesses are relying on you to keep this rule intact and ensure they can rely on this most crucial resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Eidlin", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Richard Eidlin  
Vice President of Policy and Campaigns

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