



COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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FACT SHEET

S. J. RES. 22, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT RULE

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- S. J. Res. 22 **blocks implementation of several needed reforms** in the Clean Water Act rule that benefit industry, agriculture, and municipalities. These reforms include **limiting the need for permits** for municipal storm sewers (MS4s) and **codifying exemptions** for certain construction and mining activities, groundwater, artificial ponds, and artificially irrigated areas.
- The **Clean Water Act final rule is currently not in effect** due to ongoing litigation in Federal and state courts. As a result, developers, agricultural interests, and communities continue to rely on the outdated, confusing, and arbitrary regulatory process established by the Bush administration – which the American Farm Bureau Federation, has called “*ad hoc*”, “inconsistent”, and resulting in “increased [regulatory] delays and cost to the public at large.”
- S. J. Res. 22 **blocks future administrations from EVER resolving the regulatory confusion** surrounding the Clean Water Act’s definition of “waters of the United States” without additional action by Congress.
- More than **one in three Americans receive their drinking water from a source that is newly protected under the Clean Water Act rule**. Enactment of this resolution would leave the drinking water of these Americans at risk to pollution.
- Clean water is vital for the success of the Nation’s businesses, agriculture, energy development, and the health of our communities. The Clean Water Act rule **protects this water while also providing certainty and predictability** to businesses, municipalities, hunters and fishers, and American citizens who depend on clean water for their lives and livelihoods.
- Action by the House of Representatives on the resolution of disapproval **will not result in its enactment**. The **President has already stated his intention to veto the resolution**, and the resolution passed the Senate in November 2015 with a bare majority (53-44), wholly insufficient to override a veto.