

March 23, 2015

## **EPA and Corps' Clean Water Rule Protect the Drinking Water Supply of 1-in-3 Americans**

Dear Colleague:

Last April, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) proposed a Clean Water rule to clarify the jurisdictional scope of the Clean Water Act. This proposal was intended to simplify and improve the process for determining what waters (and wetland) are, and are not, protected by the Act, consistent with the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court.

**Equally as important, this proposed Clean Water rule would protect the drinking water of over 117 million people – or one-in-three Americans – whose public water systems rely on seasonal, rain-dependent, and headwater streams.**

In our state of California, over 7 million rely on seasonal, rain-dependent, or headwater streams for their daily drinking water. However, these are the very same waterbodies where historic Clean Water Act protections have either been lost or called-into-question by the U.S. Supreme Court and the existing policies created by the Bush administration.

The proposed Clean Water rule would clarify that these traditional Clean Water Act protections would continue to apply to seasonal, rain-dependent, and headwater streams, as they had from 1972 until 2006. This proposal is supported by the history of the Clean Water Act, as well as the law and the science of protecting water quality.

We urge you to examine the potential impact of this proposal on the drinking water supply of your own state, by visiting EPA's website:

- [http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/guidance/wetlands/surface\\_drinking\\_water\\_index.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/guidance/wetlands/surface_drinking_water_index.cfm).

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the proposal, please see (<http://democrats.transportation.house.gov/legislation/waters-united-states>) or call the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment at 202-225-0060.

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Grace F. Napolitano  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Water Resources and  
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