

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

STATEMENTS ON THE CLEAN WATER RULE

Business/Industry/Agriculture

American Sustainable Business Council | David Levine, President & CEO

"The Clean Water Rule provides strong benefits to industry and the economy that far outweigh any minor costs. The Senate should let them go forward and not delay them any longer. Any business can be disrupted if water sources become reduced or contaminated. That's why ASBC's national scientific poll of small business owners found that 80% support the rules." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Center for Rural Affairs | John Crabtree, Media Director

"Water is life: for people, crops, livestock and wildlife as well as farms, ranches, business and industry. The Clean Water Rule is a crucial step in clearing the regulatory waters and protecting the quality of America's surface waters, our most vital natural resource." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

National Farmers Union | Roger Johnson, President

"NFU's policy opposes any expansion of jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act (CWA), but EPA has made genuine efforts in reaching out to agriculture stakeholders in the rule-making process and the final rule clearly demonstrates that the agency took the concerns of family agriculture under serious consideration. While the rule is not perfect from our perspective, the final rule is an improvement over the proposed rule. The final rule puts bright-line limits on jurisdiction over neighboring waters, offering farmers increased regulatory certainty and mitigating the risk of enforcement or litigation. The final rule also provides more clarity on which ditches fall under the Clean Water Act jurisdiction, removing a gray area that has caused farmers and ranchers an incredible amount of concern. We appreciate EPA's work on the regional water features, but remain concerned about waters that cannot impact the quality of jurisdictional waters will fall under jurisdiction, or that farmers will not have the regulatory certainty they need to address these waters appropriately. NFU hopes EPA will clarify this process through timely guidance." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

New Belgium Brewing | Kim Jordan, Co-Founder & CEO

"Our brewery, communities and industry depend on clean water, and businesses depend on regulatory clarity," said Kim Jordan, Co-Founder & CEO, New Belgium Brewing. "The Clean Water Rule will better protect the small streams and wetlands that feed our drinking and brewing water sources. Thanks to the EPA for working on behalf of everyone who enjoys clean water, whether for drinking, swimming, fishing or brewing." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Lakefront Brewing | Russ Klisch, President

"Clean water is very important to our brewery and our industry," said Russ Klisch, President, Lakefront Brewing. "After all, there are only 4 ingredients that go into beer: water, malted barley, hops and yeast. The Clean Water Rule will better protect our source of drinking and brewing water, but it will protect the water sources our agricultural partners rely on as well." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Prairie Fruits and Creamery | Wes Jarrell, Co-Owner

"Nobody appreciates the value of clean, abundant water more than a farmer," said Wes Jarrell, co-owner of Prairie Fruits & Creamery, Champaign, Illinois. "Clean water is absolutely essential to the success of our business. This rule levels the playing field so that responsible land managers are not competing with irresponsible managers." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Arbor Brewing Company and Corner Brewery | Matt Greff, Co-Owner

“Clean water means big business for Michigan. More than \$2 billion is spent each year on fishing in our Great Lakes, and 36,000 miles of streams and rivers. Clean water makes Michigan craft beer a growing industry that ranks among the best in the nation,” said Matt Greff, Co-Owner, Arbor Brewing Company and Corner Brewery, Ann Arbor & Ypsilanti. “The Clean Water Act is good for people and the planet; I’m proud to support clean water.” [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Arcadia Ales | Tim Surprise, Owner

“One reason I strongly support the Clean Water Act is that it protects the agricultural producers who grow the hops and yeast I need to make quality beer. Arcadia’s success is linked directly to the success of our agricultural partners. The Clean Water Act makes it possible for my business and community to thrive,” said Tim Surprise, Owner, Arcadia Ales, Battle Creek and Kalamazoo. [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Brewery Vivant | Kris Spaulding, Sustainability Director/Owner

“Clean water is essential for our business of making great beer,” said Kris Spaulding, Sustainability Director/Owner, Brewery Vivant, Grand Rapids. “But more importantly, I believe we should all do our part to protect the water that ties all of the residents of Michigan together. We are fortunate to live in such a beautiful place and our connection to water is a big part of that.” [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Founders Brewing Company | Dave Engbers, Co-Founder & President

“You simply cannot underestimate the importance of a clean and reliable water source to a brewery. It is no coincidence that Michigan can boast some of the greatest brewers in the world. Water is life,” said Dave Engbers, Co-Founder & President, Founders Brewing Company, Grand Rapids. “We are dependent on this resource for our communities, industrial advancement and recreation. We cannot take this natural resource for granted. It is our responsibility to not only to protect our waters, but celebrate their very existence.” [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Harmony Brewing Company | Barry Van Dyke, Co-Founder

“You just can’t have great beer without great water,” said Barry Van Dyke, Co-Founder, Harmony Brewing Company, Grand Rapids. “We’ve got a deep dedication to environmental stewardship that drives everyone at Harmony Brewing to push the boundaries of protecting our water so Michigan can continue to be a great beer state.” [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Short’s Brewing Company | Joe Short, Founder

“The Clean Water Act makes it easier for my brewery to be a good neighbor and honor the environment. I care about the streams and wetlands that keep Michigan water clean. Water is a huge part of my life: it’s essential to keeping my family healthy and my beer tasting great,” said Joe Short, Founder, Short’s Brewing Company, Elk Rapids & Bellaire. [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Right Brain Brewing | Russell Springsteen, Owner

“Traverse City and northern Michigan is stronger and more economically sound because the water is clean. And since beer is 90% water, clean water is essential to my business,” said Russell Springsteen, Owner, Right Brain Brewery, Traverse City. “I support the Clean Water Act and am grateful more is being done to protect this vital resource.” [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union | Kent Pepler, President

"Clean water is essential for farmers and ranchers, and for the production of healthful food," says Kent Pepler, who farms in northern Colorado and is president of Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. "The Administration's new Clean Water Rule again protects upstream water sources and downstream producers, and ensures reliable, clean water for our farms and families. This rule also continues existing exemptions for day-to-day farm operations," he adds. "This is common-sense rulemaking." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

O.A.R.S. | George Wendt, President

"I am writing to express my support, as a business owner, for the new Clean Water Rule. O.A.R.S. is among the most successful and respected rafting and sea kayaking outfitters in North America; our mission since 1969 has been to help people of all ages enjoy the best outdoor experience of their lives. Clean water is essential to that experience and to our bottom line." [Letter to President Obama, 5/27/2015]

Victory Brewing Company | Bill Covaleski, Brewmaster & Co-Founder

"Whether for drinking, recreation or brewing world-class beers, our waterways are vital to our collective health, welfare and industry," said Bill Covaleski, Brewmaster and Co-Founder of Victory Brewing Company in Downingtown, Pa. [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association | Heather Spalding, Deputy Director

"You can't have healthy food without healthy soil, and you can't have healthy soil without clean water," said Heather Spalding, deputy director of the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. "This rule will provide healthy returns for farmers, consumers and ecological systems across the country." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Thunder Heart Bison and Shape Ranch | Hugh Fitzsimons, Owner

"Our customers expect quality, and that means raising our bison naturally, where they eat native grasses and drink clean water," said Hugh Fitzsimons, a south Texas rancher and owner of Thunder Heart Bison and the 13,000-acre Shape Ranch. "As a rancher who depends on clean water, I strongly support President Obama and the EPA's actions to protect Texas streams and wetlands." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Orvis Company | Dave Perkins, Executive Vice Chairman

"The clean water rule is good for our business, which depends on clean, fishable water," says Dave Perkins, executive vice chairman of the Orvis Company. "Improving the quality of fishing in America translates directly to our bottom line, to the numbers of employees we hire right here in America, and to the health of our brick-and-mortar stores all over the country." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Pure Fishing | John Doerr, CEO

"Our outdoor recreation economy is totally dependent on healthy watersheds for our fishable waters, and the Clean Water Act is the number one protection we have to ensure the future of our industry." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Far Bank Enterprises | Travis Campbell, President & CEO

"My company depends on people enjoying their time recreating outside, especially in or near watersheds," says Travis Campbell, president and CEO of Far Bank Enterprises and a board member for the Outdoor Industry Association—the group that produced [this report](#) on the outdoor recreation economy. "Clarifying which waterways are protected under the Clean Water Act isn't a nice-to-have, it is

a business imperative, with outdoor recreation contributing \$80 billion in local, state, and federal taxes. In order to sustain the growth and success of the industry, not to mention the enjoyment of these opportunities for further generations, we need to ensure we are caring for the infrastructure that supports American experiences like fishing, kayaking, and canoeing." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Environmental

National Wildlife Federation | Collin O'Mara, President and CEO

"Clean water is essential for people and wildlife everywhere. The rule released today will benefit wildlife across the country—from manatees in Florida to mallards in Minnesota. We were particularly pleased that the EPA listened to scientific input and increased protections for some of the Prairie Potholes in the upper Midwest. These wetlands provide critical breeding grounds for millions of ducks every year—more than half of the nation's waterfowl. The process worked as it should, with the Army Corps and the Environmental Protection Agency making numerous improvements and clarifications to the rule based on the public comments. The final rule balances the urgent need to protect our nation's essential water resources with landowners' desire for clarity. It is steeped in the large body of science clearly documenting the connections between these streams and wetlands and larger water bodies, such as rivers, lakes and bays. Given the significant improvements to the rule, we encourage members of Congress to end legislative efforts to undermine it and to support clean drinking water and healthy wildlife habitats." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Natural Resources Defense Council | Rhea Suh, President

"Thanks to the Obama Administration, the drinking water supplies of 117 million Americans will gain strong safeguards against pollution. These long-overdue protections also will ensure cleaner wetlands, headwaters, brooks and streams that we use for swimming, fishing and other recreational activities. It was a long, hard slog to reach this day. Now we will redouble our efforts to defend the new Clean Water rule against developers, big polluters and their allies in Congress who want to kill it." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Natural Resources Defense Council | Karen Hobbs, Water Program Senior Policy Analyst

"Clean water is essential not only for life, but for great-tasting beer, said NRDC Water Program Senior Policy Analyst Karen Hobbs. "Members of the Brewers for Clean Water campaign are making the protection of our clean water resources a topic for discussion over a beer with friends, rather than just a wonky policy issue." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Sierra Club | Michael Brune, Executive Director

"The Obama Administration's decisive action today is good news for every American who wants to swim, fish, or simply drink a glass of water without the fear of toxic contamination. For too long, polluters have exploited legal confusion to destroy or dump dangerous waste in our waterways with impunity," said Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club. "Now, President Obama and the EPA have helped put an end to that by restoring the Clean Water Act and helping ensure millions of miles of American waterways are protected for the enjoyment of the American people, not polluters." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Sierra Club | Michael Brune, Executive Director

"As a result of this safeguard, more American waterways will be free from pollution and more of the drinking water American families rely on will be free from contamination. The Sierra Club applauds

President Obama for acting to protect clean water -- one of life's most essential, basic needs. No longer will the Supreme Court's confusing decisions on the issue allow dirty fossil fuel companies to threaten people's health by dumping toxins into our lakes, rivers, and streams. This vital safeguard puts an end to over a decade of polluters taking advantage of muddled law by restoring the Clean Water Act and putting the health of our communities and families first. Millions of Americans can now rest assured that their drinking water will be safer and the clean water we rely on to support recreation and business will be preserved. This is a huge step in the right direction for our environment and economy." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

American Rivers | Bob Irvin, President

"We applaud the Obama Administration for taking this vital step to safeguard the nation's clean drinking water," said Bob Irvin, President of American Rivers. "Few things are more fundamental to our health. Nobody should have to worry about pollution when they turn on the tap. This administration's leadership in protecting our streams will benefit millions of Americans and their children and grandchildren." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

League of Conservation Voters | Gene Karpinski, President

"The EPA and Army Corps' Clean Water Rule will fight pollution and protect the drinking water of 117 million Americans, so it should be no surprise that our recent polling on the rule demonstrated [overwhelming public support](#)," said Gene Karpinski, President of League of Conservation Voters. "People want to know that the water our children and grandchildren drink, swim, and play in is protected from pollution. It's time for Congress to step away from their pro-polluter agenda and embrace these long-overdue protections for our small streams and wetlands." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

League of Conservation Voters | Gene Karpinski, President

"Today is a great day. The Clean Water Rule is a major victory for the American people, who overwhelmingly support protecting the small streams and wetlands that feed into the drinking water of 117 million people. From safeguarding our waterways to establishing the first-ever limits on carbon pollution from coal-burning power plants, President Obama continues to build on his tremendous leadership in ensuring a healthy planet for generations to come. Now it's time for Congress to listen to their constituents and support these protections that are so vital to the water our children and grandchildren drink, swim, and play in." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Earthjustice | Trip Van Noppen, President

"When more than half of this country's rivers and streams are in poor condition, unfit for swimming, drinking or fishing, it is time to finally realize the original promise of the Clean Water Act. While the state of U.S. waters has worsened, the Clean Water Act has been blunted by a decade of confusion and inaction", said Earthjustice President Trip Van Noppen. "We applaud the Obama administration and the EPA for finalizing this commonsense and vital rule that will end the confusion and further the goal of cleaning up our waters. People in Toledo, Charleston, WV, and Montana City know the stakes all too well, but all our lakes, rivers, streams, and beaches across the country will be cleaner for it." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Environment America | Margie Alt, Executive Director

"Our rivers, lakes, and drinking water can only be clean if the streams that flow into them are protected," said Margie Alt, Executive Director with Environment America. "That's why today's action is the biggest victory for clean water in a decade." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Clean Water Action | Bob Wendelgass, President & CEO

"The Clean Water Rule helps protect our drinking water. While we have made progress since the Clean Water Act passed in 1972, incidents like last year's drinking water crisis in Toledo show that we need to do more to prevent pollution of drinking water sources, said Bob Wendelgass, President and CEO of Clean Water Action. "The Clean Water Rule follows the science, which reveals the critical role streams and wetlands serve in filtering pollution before it reaches critical water resources. We thank the Obama administration for finalizing the Rule and urge Congress to listen to the American people who overwhelmingly support the Clean Water Rule." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Clean Water Action | Bob Wendelgass, President & CEO

"We are thrilled by the Administration's action today to protect water resources critical to public health, clean water and vital communities," said Clean Water Action President Robert Wendelgass. "The Clean Water Rule signed by EPA and the Corps today reflect the overwhelming scientific evidence demonstrating that what goes on in smaller water bodies affects larger rivers, lakes and bays downstream. For over a decade, special interests have tried to prevent this common-sense clarification of the intent of the Clean Water Act. We look forward to working with the Administration to ensure that the Clean Water Act is on the job to protect our nation's water resources. Clean Water Action has worked to clarify Clean Water Act protections for vulnerable water bodies since late 2002, when the Bush Administration signaled polluter-friendly interpretation of a Supreme Court case. Our campaign has included mobilizing many hundreds of thousands of people to take action and outreach to elected officials, business leaders and environmental coalitions nationwide. We have lobbied Congress and encouraged the Obama Administration to move forward with this policy. Today, vital parts of our water infrastructure which filter pollution and prevent flooding are protected when yesterday they were not. Today's action is a victory for clean water." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Clean Water Action | Nic Clark, Michigan Director

"The Great Lakes define our Pure Michigan way of life. They are essential to our communities and our economy. But the health of our Great Lakes and the rivers like the Detroit and Kalamazoo rely on a system of headwater streams and wetlands that have been at risk for nearly a decade. We applaud the Obama administration for finalizing the Clean Water Rule and restoring Clean Water Act protections to 48% of our streams and thousands of acres of wetlands." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Trout Unlimited | Chris Wood, President & CEO

"The waters this rule protects are the sources of our nation's coldest, cleanest water," said Trout Unlimited President and CEO Chris Wood. "Not only do these waters provide the needed spawning and rearing waters for our trout and salmon, they are the sources of our iconic rivers and streams—they provide the water we all use downstream. The EPA and the Corps were right to craft this thoughtful rule in a way that protects our headwaters and our fish, but also protects the downstream uses of our nation's water. This is a rule for everyone," Wood continued. "The most important thing this rule does is restore Clean Water Act protections to headwater streams, and that means the world to anglers who understand the importance of these waters to their success in the field. But these waters are important to everyone, not just anglers. If you turn on a tap, this rule helps make sure the water that comes out is clean and fresh." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Trout Unlimited | Chris Wood, President & CEO

"This rule was crafted through a very thorough process, one in which hundreds of thousands of Americans participated," says Chris Wood, president and CEO of Trout Unlimited. "A vast majority of Americans support the rule and the protection of our country's headwater streams, because they

understand the need to protect our priceless water resources. And in a time of drought and changing climate, these resources are even more precious." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Latino Conservation Alliance |

"Safeguarding our nation's water supply is of vital importance to the Latino community, which depends on clean water to support their families' health and well-being, conduct traditional acequia farming and ranching practices, and participate in outdoor activities along streams and rivers. Families, anglers, hunters, farmers, recreationists and even businesses depending upon reliable water supplies will benefit from this rule. We applaud the EPA's leadership in adopting the Clean Water Rule, which will provide strong, clear protections for our nation's water systems and protect the health and well-being of our families, communities, rivers and streams for future generations." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition | Todd Ambs, Campaign Director

"The clean water protection rule is a major victory for people, the Great Lakes, and our economy," said Todd Ambs, campaign director for the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition. "We thank President Obama, the U.S. EPA, and the Army Corps of Engineers for standing up for our drinking water, Great Lakes, jobs, and way of life. At a time when federal Great Lakes restoration investments are delivering results for our environment and economy across the region, the clean water protection rule will help ensure that those gains are protected and not undermined." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

EDFAction | Elizabeth Thompson, President

"Today's action is a strong, balanced, and thoughtful effort to protect our nation's water. This new rule will benefit the American public by promoting clean water, a healthy and abundant food supply, and thriving wildlife -- while also recognizing and supporting the vital role played by our nation's farmers and ranchers. Congress should not interfere with these important science-based protections." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers | Land Tawney, Executive Director

"The release by the administration of the final Waters of the U.S. rule culminates an unprecedented effort to restore clarity to a bedrock natural resources law, the federal Clean Water Act," said BHA Executive Director Land Tawney. "The rule will conserve resources important to our fish, our wildlife, our citizens - and to the waters and wetlands that are central to our national identity." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Fishpond USA | Ben Kurtz, Co-Owner

"My business, along with thousands of others, relies on clean water," said Ben Kurtz, co-owner of Denver-based [Fishpond USA](#). "A love of fishing and a commitment to conserving our fisheries inspired Fishpond and underlies our company's philosophy. The responsible management of these critical resources is key to our continued existence. We thank the administration for advancing efforts to restore clarity to one of America's bedrock conservation laws, the Clean Water Act, in the face of intense and ongoing opposition." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Missoula Fishing Company | Erik Hess, Owner

"People from all over the world come to Montana for world-class fishing," said Erik Hess, owner of the [Missoula Fishing Company](#), based in Missoula, Montana. "They contribute to the \$70 billion generated nationally each and every year by hunters and anglers. The Waters of the U.S. rule is vital to our nation's economy, as well as to fish and wildlife, sportsmen and the population at large." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership | Whit Fosburgh, President & CEO

"This is a historic day that all sportsmen should welcome," Whit Fosburgh, president and CEO of Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, said in a statement. "Nearly 15 years after legal confusion contributed to the first accelerated loss of waterfowl habitat in decades, we finally have a rule in place that will help stem the tide of wetlands loss and definitively restore water quality protections to trout habitat and salmon spawning waters. We want to commend the administration for making this long-anticipated day a reality." [[Huffington Post article](#), 5/27/2015]

Southern Environmental Law Center | Navis Bermudez, Deputy Legislative Director

"We applaud the administration for standing up for the millions of Americans, more than one-third of the population, whose drinking water quality has been at risk for pollution without this rule," Bermudez said in a statement. [[Huffington Post article](#), 5/27/2015]

Green Latinos | Mark Magana, President

"Latino families across the nation swim, fish, drink and recreate in their cherished community waterways throughout this country. With many of these waterways under constant threat of pollution and degradation, particularly in socioeconomically disadvantaged and minority communities, we are thankful that EPA has taken the necessary and important step of finalizing a rule clarifying the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. This science-based rule will provide certainty for Latino families that their cherished water sources are safe and protected. GreenLatinos applauds EPA for taking this important step to protect our nation's waterways, and encourages Congress to join with President Obama in support of the final Clean Water rule to ensure that important Clean Water Act protections are restored and enforced." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship | David Jenkins, President

"Clean water is a priority for every American, and this rule merits the same bi-partisan support that the Act itself received. This rule also deserves support—especially from conservatives—because it better protects wetlands, which is fiscally responsible and protective of downstream property rights." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Izaak Walton League | Scott Kovarovics, Executive Director

"By finalizing the clean water rule, the Obama Administration is taking decisive action to protect water quality and conserve critical habitat for fish and wildlife nationwide," said Izaak Walton League Executive Director Scott Kovarovics. "The Izaak Walton League strongly supports the final rule, which ensures that science and common sense will determine how the Clean Water Act applies to streams, wetlands, and other waters." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

American Fly Fishing Trade Association | Benjamin Bulis, President

"This important final rule provides clarity on protections for the lifeblood of many of our country's prized fisheries," says Benjamin Bulis, president of the American Fly Fishing Trade Association. "The health of these headwaters sets the tone for all waters downstream and creates the backbone of our nation's water resources. If we as a nation fail to protect our headwater streams and wetlands, we could jeopardize the economy of the hunting and fishing industry and put millions of people out of work." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Friends of the Earth | Erich Pica, President

"We applaud President Obama for taking these common sense steps to ensure our waterways stay clean. President Obama heeded the call of sound science and public input in finalizing this rulemaking.

Everyone will benefit from the greater protections of our nation's drinking water." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Ducks Unlimited | Dale Hall, CEO

"Because this new rule has broad implications for many bodies of water that are important to North America's waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited will be reviewing how potential changes might affect our waterfowl, their habitats and our agricultural partners," said Ducks Unlimited CEO Dale Hall. "We strongly supported using science as the foundation for the new rule, and we were encouraged to see that all of the longstanding exemptions for normal agricultural practices appear to remain in place." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Ducks Unlimited | Dr. Scott Yaich, Chief Scientist

"We appreciate the special consideration afforded the Prairie Pothole Region, and we will be looking at the final rule very carefully to understand the extent to which these important wetlands are protected," said Ducks Unlimited Chief Scientist Dr. Scott Yaich. "We do appreciate the balance that must be struck between science and the law to end up with a regulation that is clear and pragmatic to implement." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Faith-Based Community

Evangelical Environmental Network | Rev. Mitchell Hescox, President/CEO

"All of life requires water, clean pure water," said The Rev. Mitchell C. Hescox, President/CEO, Evangelical Environmental Network. "The Evangelical Environmental Network supports the Clean Water Rule. We are thankful that both EPA and the Corps of Engineers listened to the comments and concerns from farmers, ranchers, businesses, and over 70,000 prolife Christians who offered suggestions during the comment period. Clean water is a matter of life for all creation." [Press release, 5/27/2015]

Interfaith Power and Light | Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley, Board Member, Pastor Emeritus, Providence Missionary Baptist Church

"Let me express my profound gratitude to the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for implementing the Clean Water Rule. This rule will serve to improve conditions which provide clean and safe water for drinking, farming and recreational activities. It is a "civil and human right" that all Americans have access to toxic free water which is not polluted by those who are more concerned with profit than the health of a people and a nation. On behalf of those of us in the civil rights community who have fought for years, we stand in unity and full support for this extremely significant and timely rule." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) | Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister & President

"The Clean Water Rule is important to keeping our drinking water clean and safe – a moral obligation," Dr. Sharon E. Watkins, General Minister and President, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). "Water is sacred in many religious traditions, and has enormous symbolism for Christians. Both faith and reason require that we protect our waterways from pollution." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) Office of Public Witness | Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, Director

"Clean water is a human right, yet too many communities have been besieged by pollution and the corresponding health problems associated to exposure to toxins and contamination," says the Reverend J. Herbert Nelson, Director of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Office of Public Witness, in Washington,

DC. “It is good to hear that the EPA is back on the job, protecting the drinking water of all of our children.” [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | Mary Minette, Director for Environmental Education & Advocacy

“The Waters of the U.S. rule will protect sources of water that we all depend on, from streams and wetlands to rivers, bays, and lakes and support the health of our communities and God’s good creation now and in the future,” says Mary Minette, Director for Environmental Education and Advocacy, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Jewish Council for Public Affairs | Rabbi Steve Gutow, President

“Clean drinking water is one of the most basic necessities for us and our communities,” said Rabbi Steve Gutow, President of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. “By issuing this rule, the EPA has provided clarity regarding enforcement of the law and the danger of contamination.” [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Creation Justice Ministries | Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director

“In the Christian community, water is sacred and its significance is highlighted in the Bible and in our ceremonies,” says Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. “From Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan to our own baptisms, water is central to our lives. We also know the importance of clean and fresh drinking water, and advocate for the right of all God’s people to have access to water. We commend the Environmental Protection Agency for finalizing the Waters of the United States rule and their efforts to ensure the cleanest water in our wetlands, streams, and rivers.” [Statement, 5/27/2015]

National Religious Partnership for the Environment | Cassandra Carmichael, Executive Director

“Pope Francis has said, ‘let us be ‘protectors’ of creation, protectors of God’s plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment.’ The new Clean Water Rule conserves our streams and wetlands, but also ensures clean drinking water supplies for all Americans, including communities most vulnerable to pollution,” said Cassandra Carmichael, executive director of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, noting that Pope Francis’ encyclical on the environment is slated to be released in June, and is expected to address climate change and water issues. [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Maryknoll Sisters, Eastern USA | Sister Mary Ann Smith

“Our faith traditions teach us to care for vulnerable populations including communities of color and low-income communities,” said Sister Mary Ann Smith, Maryknoll Sisters, Eastern USA. “The Clean Water Rule will protect waters in communities that have significant populations of African Americans, Native Americans, or low-income communities.” [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Community Organizations/Think Tanks

Garden Club of America | Katie Heins, President

“Ensuring a vital Clean Water Act is a critical part of reducing water pollution,” said Garden Club of America President Katie Heins. “The Garden Club of America has a long history of advocating for the protection of aquatic resources, and nothing is more fundamental to those protections than restoring commonsense safeguards to small streams and wetlands because the science shows how these waters are connected to downstream rivers and lakes.” [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Public Health

American Public Health Association | Georges Benjamin, Executive Director

"Our nation relies on clean water for basic survival — it's essential for daily activities including drinking, cooking, bathing and recreational use. When that water is polluted, Americans are at risk of exposure to a number of harmful contaminants," said APHA Executive Director Georges Benjamin, MD. "We are pleased that EPA has moved forward with this strong, evidence-based rule that will be vital to protecting the public from water pollution and keeping our nation healthy." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Trust for America's Health | Jeffrey Levi, Executive Director

"The Trust for America's Health applauds the EPA and the Obama Administration for advancing this final rule, which applies to the headwaters that supply more than 117 million Americans with their drinking water. It is vital for the nation's health to ensure everyone has access to safe and clean water." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Physicians for Social Responsibility | Catherine Thomasson, MD, Executive Director

"The Clean Water Rule clears up that confusion by safeguarding the sources of our water supplies, and aids in ensuring that every community is again entitled to clean water." [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Physicians for Social Responsibility | Janelle Lundgren, MD, Member

"As the climate changes and we begin to see more extreme weather events, wetlands can serve as an invaluable protection against flooding. Yet without CWA protections, there is often nothing stopping floods, sediment, sewage or toxic chemicals from threatening our health," said Janelle Lundgren MD, Physicians for Social Responsibility Ohio member. [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Physicians for Social Responsibility | Alan Peterson, MD, Member

"Science demonstrates that upstream headwaters, wetlands, lakes, or other waters act together to influence downstream waters by contributing clean water for drinking, irrigation, and recreation; filtering pollution; and reducing downstream flooding. That's why as a health professional I support the Clean Water Rule and its protection of our vital waters," says Alan Peterson, MD, Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania member. [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Government

President Barack Obama

"For more than 40 years, American families and businesses across the country have counted on the Clean Water Act to protect the streams and wetlands we rely on for our way of life — from recreation to public health to a growing economy. In recent years, however, court decisions have led to uncertainty and a need for clarification. One in three Americans now gets drinking water from streams lacking clear protection, and businesses and industries that depend on clean water face uncertainty and delay, which costs our economy every day. Too many of our waters have been left vulnerable to pollution. That's why I called on the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to clear up the confusion and uphold our basic duty to protect these vital resources. Today, after extensive input from the American public, they're doing just that — finalizing the Clean Water Rule to restore protection for the streams and wetlands that form the foundation of our nation's water resources, without getting in the way of farming, ranching, or forestry. This rule will provide the clarity and certainty businesses

and industry need about which waters are protected by the Clean Water Act, and it will ensure polluters who knowingly threaten our waters can be held accountable. My Administration has made historic commitments to clean water, from restoring iconic watersheds like the Chesapeake Bay and the Great Lakes to preserving more than a thousand miles of rivers and other waters for future generations. With today's rule, we take another step towards protecting the waters that belong to all of us." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

"This final rule makes clear that the claims from its opponents – that it would impose federal regulations on mud puddles and every ditch – are flat-out wrong. The truth is that downstream states like Rhode Island and many others need this rule to protect us from pollutants discharged in upstream states. This rule provides commonsense guidelines to protect the public from exposure to harmful toxins and pollutants, and helps meet our basic obligations to assure clean water for American families." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA)

"Small streams and wetlands provide drinking water to roughly 1 in 3 Americans and they must be protected from pollution at the source. The Obama Administration listened to all perspectives and developed a final rule that will help guarantee safe drinking water supplies for American families and businesses and restore much-needed certainty, consistency, and effectiveness to the Clean Water Act." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Sen. Edward Markey (D-Mass)

"In Massachusetts we may 'love that dirty water' but we also understand that our economy and public health rely on clean water. Tourism, recreation, agriculture and other economic engines of growth in Massachusetts need clean water to flourish. For more than 40 years, the Clean Water Act has played an integral role in the protection and clean-up of America's most iconic and important waterways. In Massachusetts, it helped clean up the Charles River and Boston Harbor. Attempts by Republicans and their big polluter allies to block the Clean Water Rule will only muddy expectations, not ensure clarity for American businesses and consumers that rely on clean water. Congress should focus its energy on ways to protect local communities and economies from the impacts of destructive water pollution that threatens our environment and public health. I commend EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy for their hard work ensuring a future in which our people are healthier and our land, air and water are cleaner and our economy is stronger." [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Rep. Grace F. Napolitano (D-CA)

"We have waited 12 years for clarity. For 12 long years, our Nation's streams and rivers have been vulnerable to pollution and degradation, and for 12 years, farmers, industry, and developers have been wasting valuable time and money navigating through the regulatory morass on the Clean Water Act left behind by the U.S. Supreme Court and the Bush administration. The Obama administration, and especially EPA Administrator McCarthy and Assistant Secretary Jo-Ellen Darcy, should be commended for their dedication to provide a clear, predictable, and comprehensive way of protecting our Nation's waters," said Napolitano. "I, for one, am pleased with the changes this Administration committed to make to address concerns raised by our constituents on the April 2014 proposed Clean Water rulemaking, especially ensuring that the rulemaking did not, inadvertently, change the status of municipal stormwater conveyances, water recycling or groundwater recharge areas. It is apparent that this Administration heard these concerns, listened to them, and made appropriate changes in the final

rule to address these concerns. This final rule is significantly improved from the April 2014 proposed rule, and provides a more definitive, more measurable, and clearly limited scope of Clean Water Act authority, based on the science and the law,” noted Napolitano. “Over the past year, the administration has highlighted the importance of protecting our rivers, streams, and wetlands to protect our water, our Nation’s economy, and our cherished way of life – not only for current generations, but for our children and our grandchildren. As the events of the past few years in the West have demonstrated, water is a precious resource that deserves critical protection. In fact, the 99.2 percent of Californians that drink water from public systems that rely on the seasonal, rain-dependent, and headwater streams will greatly benefit from this final rulemaking in the protection of these critical resources,” added Napolitano. “As we ask the average Californian to be mindful of his or her daily water usage, we need to ensure that upstream interests share in this effort – this is a fundamental premise of this final rulemaking. The Obama administration has met its commitment to protect our precious water resources for generations to come; now it is our turn to fulfil our duty to protect these resources. I only hope that those groups that have historically been opposed to reinvigorated protection of our Nation’s rivers, streams, and wetlands, take the time to read this final rule BEFORE they consider opposing it,” concluded Napolitano. [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Tim Mauck, County Commissioner, Clear Creek County, Colorado

Clean water is paramount to our health, our landscapes and habitat, and our recreation-based economies.” [Statement, 5/27/2015]

Labor

BlueGreen Alliance | Kim Glas, Executive Director

“Clean water is a basic need we depend on for good public health and even for economic prosperity,” said BlueGreen Alliance Executive Director Kim Glas. “We can’t afford to take the streams and wetlands that supply clean drinking water for granted. This final rule takes important steps to better preserve and protect hundreds of thousands of miles of streams and wetlands.” [Press Release, 5/27/2015]

Utility Workers Union of America | Michael Langford, President

“The safety of our drinking water depends upon clean source waters,” said Michael Langford, President of the Utility Workers Union of America. “The Clean Water Act has restored and maintained the integrity of our waters since it was enacted nearly 40 years ago, and clean water would be impossible without protecting headwaters. Our water infrastructure is already challenged due to increasing demand and lack of investment. Restoring protection of our streams and wetlands is essential.” [Press Release, 5/27/2015]