

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 18, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

We write in opposition to the proposed rule rescinding the Clean Water Rule (*Docket No. EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0203*), also called the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. Americans need an Environmental Protection Agency that will use the best possible science to protect our health and this nation's natural heritage. This rule to rescind WOTUS and reports of plans to reduce protections under the Clean Water Act are deeply concerning. Rather than protecting Americans, these actions ignore science and undermine our clean drinking water, our public health and our outdoor recreation economy.

The Clean Water Rule finalized by the Obama Administration protects the drinking water of roughly one-third of Americans. 117 million people rely on drinking water sources fed by headwater, intermittent or ephemeral streams—waterways protected under the Clean Water Rule. Rescinding this rule puts Americans' health at risk by endangering their drinking water.

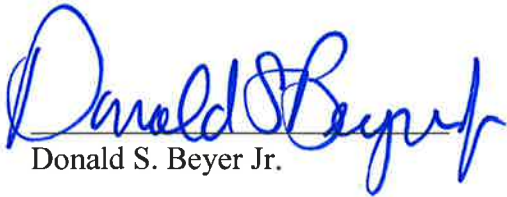
Eliminating this rule also threatens our safe access to the great outdoors and the outdoor recreation economy, which generates \$887 billion in consumer spending annually and supports 7.6 million American jobs. Pollution in unprotected streams and wetlands can threaten the health of the lakes and rivers that our constituents use for swimming, boating and other recreation. Wetlands protected under the Clean Water Rule provide some of the country's best habitat for hunters and anglers. As EPA Administrator, it is imperative to protect the water bodies that our constituents use for recreation, both to protect public health and the millions of jobs these places have helped create.

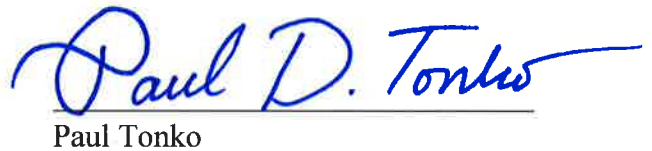
Rescinding this clean water safeguard ignores science. Years of research and peer-reviewed science have told us that intermittent and ephemeral streams and wetlands provide critical services, from filtering our drinking water to protecting communities from flood and drought. They also connect directly to major waterways, which means they can pose a danger to drinking water and recreation if polluted or degraded. The science is clear - what we do to these water bodies impacts large, continuous water sources.

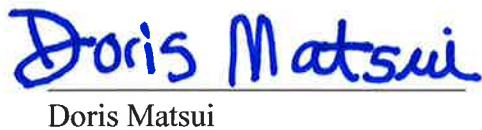
Americans agree that we should protect these waterways. The previous Administration crafted the Clean Water Rule using the comments of over one million Americans, the vast majority of which were in support of the rule. Some opponents have used scare tactics to confuse the public by stating that there are new requirements for agriculture and that the rule covers new types of waters. This is not the case. In reality, the rule provides certainty over streams and wetlands that have historically been covered by the Clean Water Act while preserving agricultural and other common sense exemptions, including for things like drainage ditches and stock watering ponds on dry land.

The Clean Water Rule is a science-based rule that keeps our communities safe and our natural resources protected—exactly what Congress intended the Clean Water Act to do. We would be willing to work with an Administration that wants to develop thoughtful changes that maintain protections for this life-sustaining resource, but this repeal is reckless. In rescinding this rule, the Agency is risking the health and safety of the American people and our natural resources. We urge you to reconsider this rescission and instead focus on fairly and fully enforcing the Clean Water Act.

Sincerely,


Donald S. Beyer Jr.

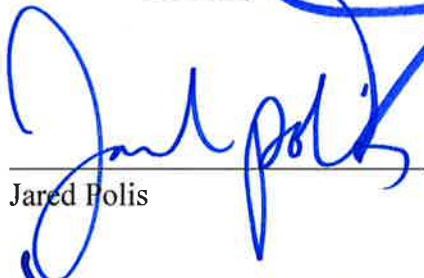

Paul Tonko


Doris Matsui


Alan Lowenthal


Gerald E. Connolly


Matt Cartwright


Jared Polis


Mike Quigley


Marcy Kaptur


Grace F. Napolitano

Jared Huffman

Peter A. DeFazio

Barbara Lee

Debbie Dingell

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Brenda L. Lawrence

André Carson

Adam Smith

Jerrold Nadler

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

Dwight Evans

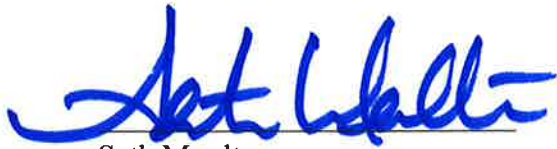
Keith Ellison

Donald M. Payne, Jr.

Stephen F. Lynch

Niki Tsongas

Sander M. Levin



Seth Moulton



Bill Foster



Nanette Diaz Barragán



Jamie Raskin



Anthony Brown



Madeleine Z. Bordallo



A. Donald McEachin



Earl Blumenauer



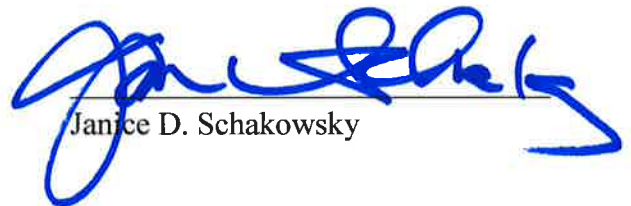
William R. Keating



James P. McGovern



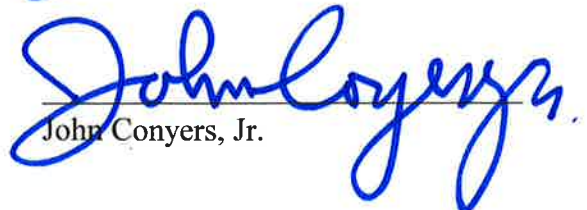
Sheila Jackson Lee



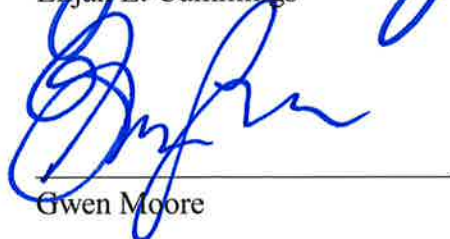
Janice D. Schakowsky



Elijah E. Cummings




John Conyers, Jr.




Gwen Moore



Debbie Wasserman Schultz


Louise M. Slaughter


Hakeem Jeffries



Raúl M. Grijalva



Mark Pocan

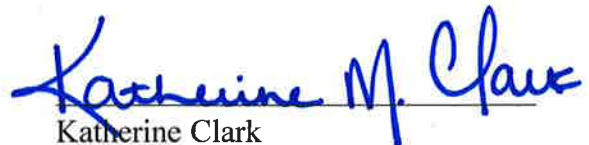

Carol Shea-Porter


Michael E. Capuano


David N. Cicilline

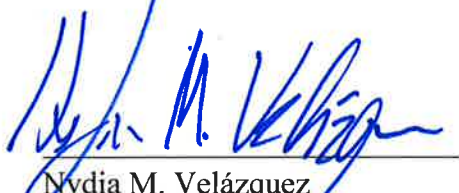

John K. Delaney

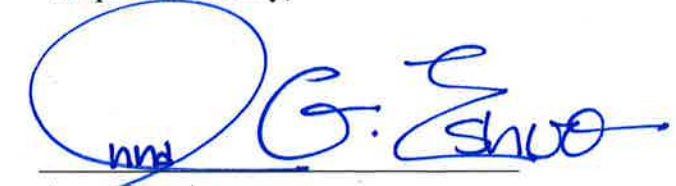

Mike Doyle


Katherine Clark


Bonnie Watson Coleman


Joseph P. Kennedy, III

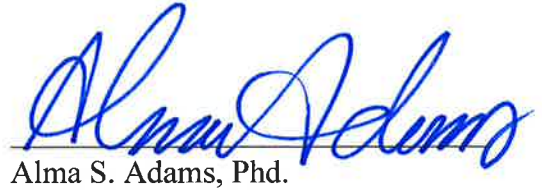

Nydia M. Velázquez


Anna G. Eshoo

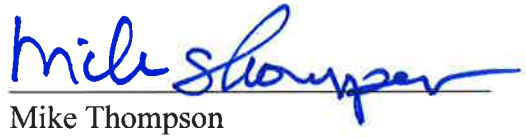

Mark DeSaulnier


Frank Pallone, Jr.

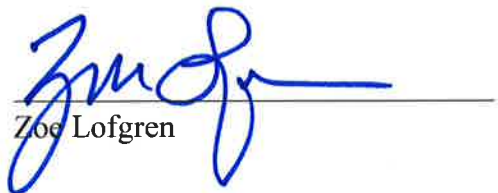

John Yarmuth



Alma S. Adams, Phd.


Donald Norcross


Mike Thompson


Betty McCollum


Zoe Lofgren


Chellie Pingree


Lucille Roybal-Allard


Ruben J. Kihuen


Jackie Speier


Grace Meng


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott


Diana DeGette


Daniel T. Kildee


Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr.


Luis V. Gutiérrez



Rick Nolan



Steve Cohen



John Sarbanes



David E. Price



Suzanne Bonamici



Judy Chu



Daniel W. Lipinski



Jim Langevin



Elizabeth H. Esty



Linda Sánchez



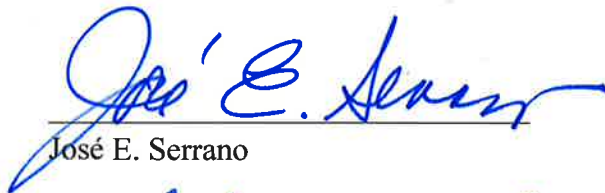
Marcia L. Fudge



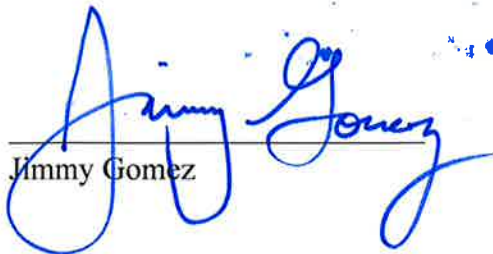
Robert A. Brady



Albio Sires



José E. Serrano



Jimmy Gomez



Salud O. Carbajal



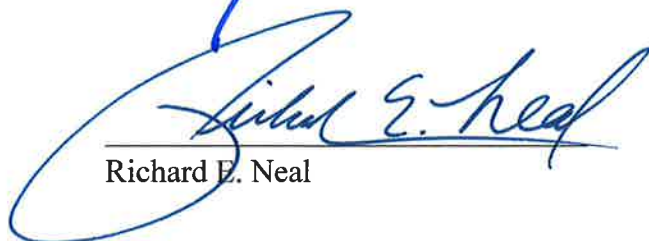
Brendan F. Boyle



Tony Cárdenas



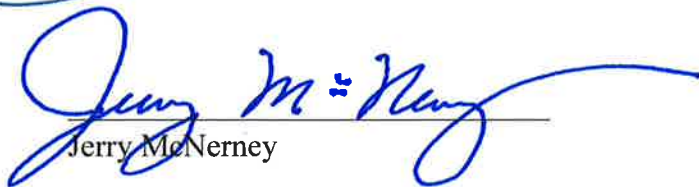
Bill Pascrell, Jr.



Richard E. Neal



Darren Soto



Jerry McNerney



Pramila Jayapal



Adam B. Schiff



Brad Sherman



Stephanie Murphy



Josh Gottheimer



Ted W. Lieu