

May 15, 2018

Dear Representative:

The undersigned conservation and sportsmen's organizations representing thousands of hunters and anglers across the country urge you to oppose the harmful water policy riders that would repeal the Clean Water Rule or fundamentally alter the Clean Water Act.

We oppose section 108 of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, which would repeal the 2015 Clean Water Rule. The appropriations process should not be used to undermine the rulemaking process by rolling back a duly promulgated rule after extensive public comment and certainly not one as fundamental to ensuring abundant, clean water under the Clean Water Act.

We also oppose the Banks #16 amendment and the Herrera-Beutler #17 amendment of the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, which would respectively rescind the 2015 Clean Water Rule and would put in place a very restrictive definition of Navigable Waters, removing Clean Water Act protections for a large number of waterways that fish and wildlife depend on and sportsmen and women value across the country.

Even three years after the 2015 Clean Water Rule briefly went into effect, hunters and anglers still support its protections for headwaters streams and wetlands. A recent national poll of sportsmen and women's attitudes on water issues conducted by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership shows that 80 percent hunters and anglers support the Clean Water Rule. Furthermore, 92 percent of sportsmen and women believe the federal government should maintain or strengthen federal water protections. They don't want the federal government to roll back the safeguards that conserve our river, lakes, streams, and wetlands. Without clear and adequate safeguards, the places sportsmen and women hold dear, such as iconic western trout streams and the duck factory of the Midwest's prairie potholes, could be destroyed.

Rolling back the Clean Water Rule would not only disregard the public input of over 1.5 million Americans, who support the Rule and have opposed attempts to roll it back, but it would create a period of great uncertainty regarding Clean Water Act safeguards. The EPA and the Army Corps have the tools they need to reevaluate the Clean Water Rule – if they choose – through the rulemaking process and have made public statements that they intend to do so this year. Rather than restarting the entire rulemaking process all over again, as the rider would direct, the agencies should review the scientific record and solicit meaningful public input in order to assess appropriate changes to the Clean Water Rule.

We have attached two documents: a letter signed by our organizations and other partner groups urging Administrator Pruitt not to repeal the 2015 Clean Water Rule and a joint sportsmen's press release opposing the repeal of the Clean Water Rule. These documents highlight sportsmen's support for a rule that conserves our nation's critical headwater streams, shields communities from flooding, supplies drinking water to one in three Americans, and provides essential fish and wildlife habitat that supports an \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy.

We thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts regarding the harmful Clean Water Rule rider and we look forward to working with you to ensure sportsmen and women have a voice in shaping the future of our nation's water resources.

Sincerely,

American Fisheries Society

Izaak Walton League of America

National Wildlife Federation

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Trout Unlimited