

Dear President Obama,

As elected leaders across Missouri, we write you to urge you to propose a rulemaking to restore critical Clean Water Act protections to Missouri's waterways and waters nationwide.

Public leaders know how critically important clean water is to the health and economic livelihood of people across our state. Our constituents need clean water for drinking water, fishing, swimming, agriculture, recreation, and the wellbeing of their communities. They depend on the tributaries and wetlands that feed into our iconic waterways like the Meramec, Missouri, and Mississippi Rivers. Our waterways are part of what make Missouri beautiful, thriving, and prosperous. Stewardship and strong protections for our water resources are integral parts of our citizens' health and economic vitality.

But our waters' health is in crisis. Beginning in 1972, the Clean Water Act protected all of the nation's waters, from small, unnamed Ozark streams to the cherished Meramec. But now, because of two bitterly-divided Supreme Court decisions (SWANCC in 2001 and Rapanos in 2006), legal uncertainty threatens countless critical resources with unregulated pollution, including headwater streams, lakes, tributaries, and wetlands that feed into and filter our rivers.

The threat is enormous. Here in Missouri, according to EPA data, the drinking water of over 2.4 million Missourians may no longer be protected because the waters that feed many of our public drinking water systems are seasonal. Similarly, more than 10,000 miles of streams in Missouri could lose protection because they are headwater streams and no other streams flow into them.

To protect our cherished waters like the Meramec, Missouri, and Mississippi Rivers, we urge you to move forward with a rulemaking to restore critical protections to these waters under the Clean Water Act and reaffirm the broad scope of the Clean Water Act that existed for more than three decades. We believe, by restoring the Clean Water Act, you can put us back on track to becoming a country where all our waters are safe for swimming, fishing, and drinking.

We appreciate your commitment to protecting Missouri's waterways, and we hope you will move quickly to ensure they are protected for years to come.

Sincerely,

Jim Aziere
2nd Ward Alderman
Raytown, Missouri

Thomas Bieker
General Councilman D
Springfield, Missouri

Susan Carlson
64th District State Representative
Saint Louis, Missouri

Chris Carter
61st District State Representative
Saint Louis, Missouri

Maria Chappelle-Nadal
14th District State Senator
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Les Dills
4th Ward Councilman
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Rory Ellinger
72nd District State Representative
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Jay Fetsch
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Chris Gorman
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Joseph Keavney
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