



The Honorable Michael Regan  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460  
Mail Code 1101A

Jaime A. Pinkham  
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)  
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Dear Administrator Regan and Acting Assistant Secretary Pinkham:

On behalf of our organizations' members and supporters, we call on you to immediately repeal the 'Dirty Water Rule' and then permanently restore Clean Water Act protections for all our waterways - including ephemeral streams and our nation's remaining wetlands.

Our organizations believe that the Clean Water Act was intended to protect all of America's waterways. Unfortunately, the Trump administration's reckless rule has left nearly 60% of our nation's streams and countless wetlands at risk of even more pollution and destruction.

The kinds of waters at risk are enormously valuable. Headwaters, ephemeral and intermittent streams help provide drinking water to millions of people, support fish and estuaries prized for angling and recreation, and feed our most beloved rivers, lakes, and bays. Wetlands filter out pollutants, protect communities from flooding, and provide habitat for wildlife. In short, protecting these waterways is essential to the Clean Water Act's core purpose -- "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation's waters."

Moreover, restoring protections to these waters is vital to the administration's priorities of addressing climate change and environmental justice. As climate change drives more severe storms, wetlands' flood protection will become even more vital. And as climate change intensifies drought, more of our streams are less likely to run year-round. Preserving wetlands and streams for communities already overburdened by pollution and flooding should be viewed as an environmental justice imperative.

For these reasons, our organizations were relieved to learn on June 9 that the Administration intends to revoke the “Navigable Waters Protection Rule” and replace it with a policy that provides durable protection to all our waterways.

Yet you must move swiftly. Already, thousands of waterways have been deemed non-jurisdictional under the Dirty Water Rule - including two recently revised jurisdictional determinations which removed protections from about 200 acres of wetlands and 10,000 linear feet of streams in Texas and from about 200 acres of wetlands that absorb floodwaters in a flood prone area for a large development near the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge in South Carolina. More waters are at risk every day this drastic rollback remains on the books.

Given the extensive prior record on the Dirty Water Rule -- including [widespread public opposition](#) and [criticism from EPA’s own science advisors](#) -- the agency has all the tools it needs to begin the repeal process immediately and complete it by the end of the year. We urge you to do so.

Next year, our nation will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. As stewards of this bedrock environmental statute, we call on you to permanently restore federal protections to all of America’s waterways before we reach that half-century milestone on October 18, 2022.

Sincerely,

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