

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2014

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Simpson and Calvert and Ranking Members Kaptur and Moran:

As you prepare the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill and the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2015, we ask that you ensure no funding made available under those bills can be used to change the definition of waters under the jurisdiction of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251, et seq.).

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a draft rule to amend the Clean Water Act (CWA) redefining "waters of the United States" giving EPA expanded authority over regulated bodies of water, and, in some cases, private property. Additionally, EPA introduced a "connectivity report," claiming that all bodies of water, no matter the size, are connected. This report flies in the face of the Supreme Court's decision holding that isolated wetlands could not be considered "waters of the United States" for purposes under the CWA.

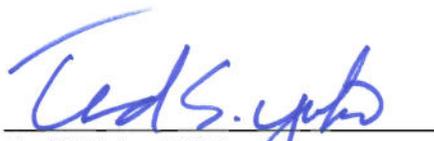
With EPA's new proposed guidelines, we could see an expansion of EPA's authority from regulating rivers, estuaries, lakes, and wetlands to regulating farm ponds, storm drains, and other non-navigable water bodies. Clearly this policy will have wide ranging effects on everything from construction to agriculture.

Last year, the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee included language under Sec. 107 of the draft FY14 Appropriations bill while the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee included language under Sec. 435 of the draft FY14 Appropriations bill, ensuring funds are not used to implement any change to the definition of "waters of the United States." We hope that the same

language will be included in the FY15 Appropriations bill of your respective committees.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Ted S Yoho, DVM
Member of Congress



Tom Rice
Member of Congress



Joe Barton
Member of Congress



Bill Flores
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



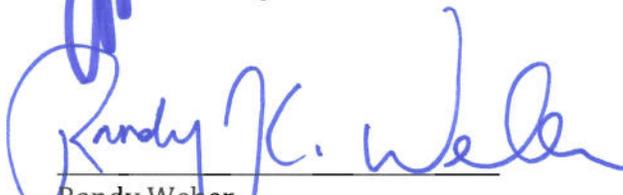
Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



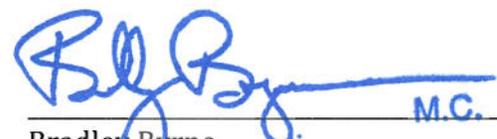
Jeff Denham
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Phil Roe, MD
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Bradley Byrne
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Reid Ribble
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Doug Lamborn
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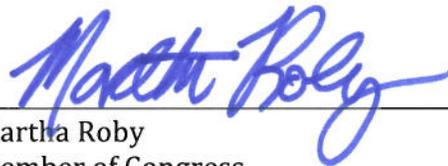
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek
Member of Congress



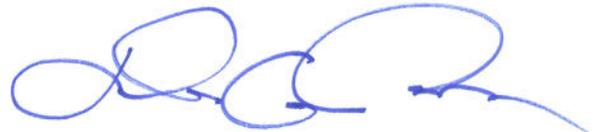
Ron DeSantis
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Martha Roby
Member of Congress



Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress



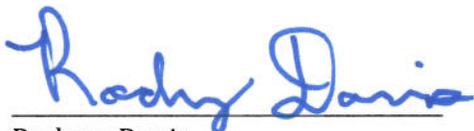
Dennis Ross
Member of Congress



Steve Daines
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



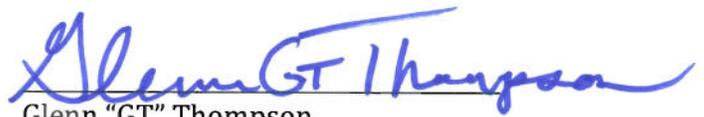
Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



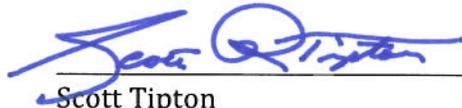
Sam Johnson
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
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James Lankford
Member of Congress