



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

September 8, 2014

United States House
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose H.R. 5078 -- A Radical Attack on Clean Water

Dear Representative:

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The *Scorecard* is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

LCV urges you to vote NO on H.R. 5078, the so-called “Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act of 2014,” which would allow the continued dumping of pollution into our small streams and wetlands by preventing the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers from moving forward with their proposed Clean Water Rule. This commonsense rule would clarify Clean Water Act protections for the small streams, wetlands, headwaters, and tributaries that impact the drinking water of over 117 million Americans, support businesses and recreation, and are crucial habitat for wildlife. H.R. 5078 would stop this rule in its tracks, closing the public comment period and ensuring the voices of polluters trump demands for clean water.

However, this radical bill goes even further and prohibits the EPA and the Army Corps from ever developing any “substantially similar” rule or guidance to protect these crucial waterways. This extreme language leaves these waters vulnerable to pollution for the foreseeable future and undermines the Clean Water Act. Lastly, it would require the EPA and the Army Corps to spend another two years consulting with state and local officials. This process is unnecessary and simply a delay tactic. The agencies’ current outreach to states, local officials, and many other stakeholders, as well as the extended comment period, provides ample opportunity for all stakeholders’ voices to be heard.

We urge you to REJECT H.R. 5078, an extreme attack that threatens clean water by giving polluters free reign to continue damaging our small streams and wetlands. We will strongly consider including vote(s) on this bill in the 2014 Scorecard. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld, Sara Chieffo or Alex Taurel in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President