



September 9, 2014

Dear Member of Congress,

As members of the Choose Clean Water Coalition, we are committed to maintaining and restoring clean water to the rivers and streams throughout the Chesapeake Bay region and to the Bay itself. We rely on the Clean Water Act to protect and restore local waters throughout Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. It is critical to our work and the communities we represent that the Clean Water Act remains a strong tool to protect our waters.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have proposed an administrative rule clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act. This rule is important to community health across the watershed because it will protect drinking water sources. It is also vital for the health of the local streams, creeks, and rivers that flow into the Chesapeake Bay and will safeguard important habitat for fish and wildlife. This rule removes uncertainty created by a line of Supreme Court cases by identifying broad categories of waters that are always covered by the Clean Water Act and leaving a small segment of waters protected on a case-by-case basis.

Unfortunately, there are efforts to bypass the formal administrative rulemaking process through which federal rules are adopted. These attempts to block the rulemaking process by tacking "Dirty Water" riders onto appropriation bills or other legislation is an end run around our democratic processes. It prevents federal agencies from fulfilling their public responsibilities as well as deprives the public of a full and robust discourse during this rulemaking process that the Administrative Procedure Act guaranteed all Americans in 1946.

**We urge you to reject any "Dirty Water" riders attached to appropriation bills or other legislation.**

Thank you for your consideration of this request to protect the waters of the Chesapeake region and all of the United States. Please contact Peter J. Marx at 410-905-2515 or [peter@choosecleanwater.org](mailto:peter@choosecleanwater.org) with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Allegheny Highlands Alliance  
Anacostia Watershed Society  
Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage  
Clean Water Action  
Conservation Pennsylvania  
Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania  
Delaware Nature Society  
Earth Forum of Howard County  
Earthworks  
Friends of Beautiful Pendleton County  
Friends of the Rappahannock  
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake

Laurel Mountain Preservation Association  
Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy  
Maryland Conservation Council  
Maryland League of Conservation Voters  
Mattawoman Watershed Society  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Nature Abounds  
Neighbors of the Northwest Branch, Anacostia River  
Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens Group  
PennFuture  
Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Port Tobacco River Conservancy  
Potomac Conservancy  
Rock Creek Conservancy  
Shenandoah Valley Network  
St. Mary's River Watershed Association  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
Trout Unlimited  
Virginia Conservation Network  
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy  
West Virginia Rivers Coalition