

Statement of Chairman Bill Shuster
Floor Consideration of S.J. Res 22, Resolution of Disapproval for the
Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule – January 13, 2016

I rise today in strong support of S.J. Res. 22, the Resolution of Disapproval for the Waters of the United States Rule.

For decades, Federal regulators worked as partners with the states to significantly improve water quality across the country – and this partnership had worked. The Federal Government shouldn't be regulating every single drop of water. Pennsylvania – just like every other state – is supposed to bear the primary responsibility of regulating the waters within its own borders.

But that all changed when the EPA and the Corps of Engineers blatantly ignored Pennsylvania, ignored the other states, ignored the limits on Federal jurisdiction, and published this rule.

Thanks to this overreach, just about any water or wet area in the country is open to Federal regulation, jobs will be threatened, and the rights of landowners, states, and local governments will be trampled.

It was clear there were problems with the rule long before it was enacted. The Administration basically concocted this proposal in a vacuum. Pennsylvania, and many other states, asked for this rule to be withdrawn or improved when it was being developed and then when it was proposed. Now, more than 30 states have sued the EPA and the Corps of Engineers over it.

This is a prime example of why my constituents are sick and tired of the oversized federal government. Every day, I hear from farmers, homebuilders, small businesses, and others in my District about how damaging this regulation will be.

Some of my farmers have told me it will be difficult to pass on their family farm to their children because of the costs associated with this power grab. According to the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB), this rule could give the EPA authority to regulate over 60,000 acres of land in the 9th Congressional District alone – and PA farmers could face fines of more than \$37,000 per day. This rule could also force thousands of dollars in fines on small businesses in Central and Southwestern Pennsylvania. And we've heard the same concerns from across the country.

Last year, the House passed the bipartisan H.R. 1732, the "Regulatory Integrity Protection Act," – instructing the Administration to go back and do this rule correctly.

Sadly, the EPA and the Corps didn't listen to anybody – so here we are again today.

I urge all Members to support S.J. Res 22 that rejects this detrimental WOTUS rule.