

September 8, 2014

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Rahall:

On behalf of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) I write in support of the Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act, H.R. 5078.

GBRA was established by the Texas Legislature in 1933 as a water conservation and reclamation district. GBRA provides stewardship for the water resources in its 10-county statutory district, which begins near the headwaters of the Guadalupe and Blanco Rivers, ends at San Antonio Bay, and includes Kendall, Comal, Hays, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales, DeWitt, Victoria, Calhoun, and Refugio Counties.

GBRA strongly believes that the successful implementation of the Clean Water Act depends on all parties working collaboratively to address the issues. Water users need certainty and GBRA is committed to working with Congress, the agencies, and other stakeholders to provide a clearly defined, efficient process for all permitting requirements associated with the Clean Water Act. We fully understand and support the need for keeping our waters safe and clean, not only for purposes of crop production, but also for drinking water, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreational uses. To further those goals, GBRA continues to make necessary improvements to our systems to increase efficiencies, conservation, and environmental protections. GBRA shares concerns over the recently released rulemaking proposal concerning the expanding definition of "waters of the U.S." under the federal Clean Water Act.

Like other stakeholders, GBRA hoped for and urged the agencies to put forth a rule which would at long last provide us with crystal clear definitions and reasonable regulation to ensure achievable water quality standards without hindering our ability to use and deliver water resources. It was an enormous disappointment to us that the proposed rule only seemed to further confuse the issues raised in notable judicial rulings. And so, H.R. 5078 is necessary even though the collaborative process it establishes further delays the clarity we seek in light of the proposed rule, which as currently written is unworkable and unacceptable.

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GBRA

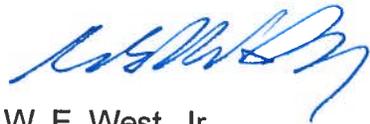
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
flowing solutions

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One of the greatest strengths of the Clean Water Act is the relationship between the States and the federal government. H.R. 5078 builds upon this strength by engaging state, local and federal partners in an open and transparent collaborative process. We believe that this consensus based process will lead to a stronger more effective Clean Water Act that protects the environment and also allows our members to meet the water supply challenges of our nation.

GBRA thanks you for your attention to the critical water issues facing our nation, and for supporting our members as they continue to be stewards of our nation's water supply and a critical part of the economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. E. West, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

W. E. West, Jr.
General Manager

WEW:csd