

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio:

The American Sugarbeet Growers Association represents all of the 10,000 sugar beet growers and owners of eight beet sugar cooperatives and 22 factories in 11 states. On behalf of our membership, the ASGA would like to offer our support for the Regulatory and Integrity Protection Act as introduced by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

More than 1.16 million acres of sugar beets were planted in 2014. Our growers, who also grow a variety of other crops--including corn, soybeans, malting barley, wheat, alfalfa, dry beans and specialty crops--have substantial concerns with the proposed Waters of the U.S. rule (WOTUS). They believe that it goes well beyond the jurisdictional scope of the Clean Water Act and significantly impairs the long standing federal, state and local partnership that has existed for decades in protecting water quality.

The agriculture community and other significant stakeholders were not consulted by EPA and the Corps of Engineers in the development of the proposed WOTUS Rule, and the two agencies have not provided satisfactory clarification on the extent and regulatory reach of its actions on farmers and ranchers. The ASGA filed comments on the proposed rule on November 10, 2014, echoing other commenters who share the widely-held views that this rule should be withdrawn.

We very much appreciate your leadership on this critical issue and look forward to working with you in securing passage of the Regulatory and Integrity Protection Act of 2015 (HR 1732).

Sincerely,

**Luther Markwart**

Luther Markwart  
Vice President  
American Sugarbeet Growers Association