

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



September 8, 2014

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

The Honorable Bill Shuster
U.S. House of Representatives
2209 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Shuster:

This week, the House of Representatives is expected to debate and vote on bipartisan legislation (H.R. 5078). The Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act of 2014 would prohibit the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers from developing, finalizing, adopting, implementing, applying, administering, or enforcing the proposed WOTUS rule. The EPA and the Corps would be required to engage in a federalism consultation with the states and local governments.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture strongly support this legislation and urge all members of the Pennsylvania delegation to vote in favor of this bipartisan, common-sense bill.

Pennsylvania, through its Department of Environmental Protection and 66 county conservation districts, has one of the most robust waterway and wetland protection programs in the nation. Redefining Waters of the United States (WOTUS) would unnecessarily expand federal authority in the Commonwealth, as these waters are already under Commonwealth jurisdiction for regulation under existing state statutes. The proposed rule would create confusion and potentially disrupt what has been years of federal cooperation in Pennsylvania, without providing any discernable environmental benefit.

For these reasons, we strongly urge all members to vote in favor of this bipartisan legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of E. Christopher Abruzzo in black ink.

E. Christopher Abruzzo
Secretary
Department of
Environmental Protection

Handwritten signature of George D. Greig in blue ink.

George D. Greig
Secretary
Department of Agriculture