

September 4, 2014

Dear Representative:

Later this week, the House of Representatives is expected to debate and vote on bipartisan legislation (H.R. 5078) that is designed to prevent an unlawful regulatory over-reach by EPA. This legislation has the support of the bipartisan leaders of the House Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Agriculture. The undersigned organizations strongly support this effort and urge all members to vote in favor of this bipartisan, common-sense bill.

Contrary to the allegations of some, this measure would not weaken the federal commitment to clean water. The bill is a narrow, carefully crafted proposal that is designed to accomplish one, simple goal: to require EPA to live within the law set out by Congress and affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court. It does not alter the existing definition of navigable waters in the Clean Water Act. It does not scale back any existing authority in the law. It does not prevent the agency from protecting any waters it has protected since the law was enacted in 1972.

What the legislation simply does is to prevent the agency from proceeding with the sweeping proposal it unveiled earlier this year. That proposed regulation goes well beyond any authority ever granted to it by Congress in the 42 years since the law's enactment – and just plain ignores two U.S. Supreme Court rulings. As Chairman Shuster quite appropriately pointed out in hearings earlier this year, this is a matter of separation of powers. It is a matter of Congress re-asserting its rightful place in setting out policies for an agency to follow. It is a fair, bipartisan effort to remind an agency that it must live within the laws that Congress enacts and that the Supreme Court affirms. An agency may quite rightly exercise discretion within the boundaries of the law, but it cannot usurp Congress's authority to determine what that law is.

We strongly urge all members of Congress to vote in favor of this narrowly crafted, bipartisan legislation. Assuring that agencies live within the law that Congress sets out is an important priority for all our organizations, and we will be watching this vote closely.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association  
Agri-Mark Inc.  
Alabama Pork Producers  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Horse Council  
American Sugar Alliance  
American Sugar Cane League  
American Sugarbeet Growers Association  
Arizona Pork Council  
Arkansas Pork Producers Association  
Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
California Pork Producers Association

Colorado Pork Producers Council  
Corn Producers of Texas  
CropLife America  
Dairy Producers of Utah  
Delaware-Maryland Agribusiness Association  
Earth Moving Contractors Association of Texas  
Exotic Wildlife Association  
Forest Landowners Association  
Forest Resource Association  
Georgia Pork Producers Association  
Hardwood Federation  
Idaho Dairymen's Association  
Illinois Pork Producers Association  
Independent Cattlemens Association of Texas  
Iowa Pork Producers Association  
Kansas Grain and Feed Association  
Kansas Pork Association  
Kentucky Pork Producers Association  
Louisiana Pork Producers Association  
Maine Hog Growers Association  
Michigan Pork Producers Association  
Milk Producers Council  
Minnesota Corn Growers Association  
Minnesota Pork Producers Association  
Mississippi Pork Producers Association  
Missouri Agribusiness Association  
Missouri Dairy Association  
Missouri Pork Producers Association  
National Alliance of Forest Owners  
National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants  
National Cattleman's Beef Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Turkey Federation  
Nebraska Pork Producers Association, Inc.  
New Hampshire Pork Producers Council  
North Carolina Pork Council, Inc.  
Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives  
Ohio AgriBusiness Association  
Ohio Pork Producers Council  
Public Lands Council  
Riverside & Landowners Protection Coalition  
Select Milk Producers, Inc.  
South Dakota Agri-Business Association  
South Dakota Grain & Feed Association

South East Dairy Farmers Association  
South Texans' Property Rights Association  
South Texas Cotton & Grain Association  
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association  
Southwest Council of Agribusiness  
Tennessee Pork Producers Association  
Texas Agricultural Land Trust  
Texas Association of Agricultural Consultants  
Texas Association of Dairymen  
Texas Broiler Council  
Texas Cattle Feeders Association  
Texas Citrus Mutual  
Texas Deer Association  
Texas Egg Council  
Texas Grain & Feed Association  
Texas Grain Sorghum Association  
Texas Nursery & Landscape Association  
Texas Pest Management Association  
Texas Pork Producers Association  
Texas Poultry Federation  
Texas Poultry Improvement Association  
Texas Rice Producers Legislative Group  
Texas Seed Trade Association  
Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Association  
Texas Soybean Association  
Texas Turkey Federation  
Texas Vegetable Association  
Texas Wheat Producers Association  
Texas Wildlife Association  
Turfgrass Producers of Texas  
U.S. Cattlemen's Association  
United Egg Producers  
Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.  
USA Rice Federation  
Utah Pork Producers Association  
Virginia Agribusiness Council  
Virginia Poultry Federation  
Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas  
West Virginia Pork Producers Council  
Western Peanut Growers Association  
Western United Dairymen  
Wisconsin Pork Producers Association  
Wyoming Ag Business Association  
Wyoming Crop Improvement Association  
Wyoming Wheat Growers Association

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