

September 8, 2014

The Honorable Ted Yoho  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Yoho:

H.R. 5078, the Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act, is scheduled for a floor vote on the afternoon of Tuesday, September 9. The undersigned cotton producer organizations urge you to vote favorably for this bill.

We appreciate that this bill will mandate the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to retract the Interpretive Rule. We believe that this rule will actually restrict the exemptions that Congress intended for agriculture regarding Section 404 permits. Furthermore, we believe that if this rule is not pulled back, it will have an unfavorable effect on the long-standing relationship between the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service and the farming community and will actually result in a reduction of conservation practices being implemented.

We believe that the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) Rule developed by the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers goes far beyond the Congressional intent of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and fails to reach its goal of clarification. We also believe that this rule has the potential to cause profound negative impacts on agriculture. We believe that the alternative offered by H.R. 5078 to require the agencies to consult with state and local officials for the development of consensus solutions in defining the jurisdictional scope of the CWA is reasonable and prudent.

Thank you for taking our concerns under consideration and, again, we urge you to vote favorably for this important bill.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Council of Arkansas  
Alabama Cotton Commission  
Arizona Cotton Growers Association  
California Cotton Ginners Association  
California Cotton Growers Association  
Cotton and Grain Producers of the Lower Rio Grande Valley  
Delta Council  
Georgia Cotton Commission  
Kansas Cotton Association  
Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association  
The National Cotton Council  
North Carolina Cotton Producers Association  
Oklahoma Cotton Council  
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Rolling Plains Cotton Growers  
San Joaquin Valley Quality Cotton Growers Association

South Carolina Cotton Board  
South Texas Cotton & Grain Association  
Southern Cotton Growers, Inc.  
Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association  
Virginia Cotton Growers Association  
Western Agricultural Processors Association