



SOUTHEASTERN LUMBER  
MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

September 4, 2014

Dear Representative Aderholt:

The Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association (SLMA) supports H.R. 5078, the Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act, and urges swift passage of the bill by the House of Representatives. SLMA is a trade association that represents sawmills, lumber treaters, and their suppliers in 17 states throughout the Southeast.

As evidenced at the June 11, 2014, Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment hearing, there is substantial and significant disagreement between the federal agencies, the states, local governments, and the regulated community about the scope and effect of the "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) proposed rule jointly published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Corps of Engineers (Corps). The disagreements encompass all aspects of the proposed rule, including whether the proposal is consistent with recent Supreme Court decisions regarding limits to federal jurisdiction, whether the rule reduces or expands federal jurisdiction beyond those waters currently regulated, and the implications of the new definitions that the agencies have incorporated into the proposed rule.

H.R. 5078 would lead to a better rule by requiring the agencies to conduct a transparent, representative, and open consultation with state and local officials to develop a consensus about those waters that should be under federal jurisdiction. Consistent with the Clean Water Act, all other waters would remain under the jurisdiction of the various states where they can appropriately address the diversity and variability of water and land features and how best to protect them.

We believe the course of action contained in the legislation has the potential to lay a foundation for the resolution of this controversial and divisive issue in a way that achieves environmental benefits and ensures our nation's ability to engage in the kind of robust economic activity that sustains and supports Americans working in all sectors of the American economy.

Accordingly, we urge a "yes" vote for H.R. 5078.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B Smalley". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray rectangular background.

Bryan Smalley  
President