

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 12, 2019

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Acting Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

The Honorable R.D. James
Assistant Secretary of the Army
Office of the Assistant Secretary for
Civil Works
Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Acting Administrator Wheeler and Assistant Secretary James:

We write to request an extension of the proposed comment period associated with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) proposed rule to replace the 2015 Clean Water Rule.

Americans depend on clean water for their health and livelihoods. Today, more than 117 million Americans – in both large cities and small and rural towns – obtain their drinking water from the same streams and waterbodies made more vulnerable to pollution under the Trump administration's proposed rule. Yet, despite this impact, the administration proposes only a 60-day comment period on this proposed rule. We believe this period is far too short to allow the countless Americans directly impacted by this endeavor to understand fully its magnitude and to make their voices heard on the proposal, if they so choose.

We urge you to extend the comment period for your replacement to the existing Clean Water Rule to at least the same duration as offered by the previous administration in establishing that Rule – 207 days (April 21—November 14, 2014). That public comment period, first established for 90 days and extended twice in response to extension requests, yielded more than a million comments from concerned individuals and families. It makes no sense to deny affected Americans the same opportunity to comment on this replacement proposal.

Clean water is a basic need. Our families rely on rivers and streams to supply clean drinking water to our homes and businesses. Our farmers and brewers rely on clean water to produce food and drink. Hunters, anglers, and birders need waters and wetlands to sustain wildlife and the \$887 billion outdoor recreation industry depends upon clean water to recreate. These interests want to know which waters remain protected by the Federal Clean Water Act.

Preliminary reports suggest that the proposed rule would roll back Clean Water Act protections on more than 51 percent of the nation's wetlands and 18 percent of streams, while encouraging comment on further restrictions that could cover up to 60 percent of the nation's waterways.

Given the breadth of these potential impacts to everyday Americans, every effort should be made to provide sufficient time to understand its impacts, and to comment on its merits. This will allow everyday Americans to consider the proposal and its implications on their health, lives and

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
The Honorable R.D. James
February 11, 2019
Page 2

livelihoods, and provide the feedback you seek. The 60 days you propose is simply not enough time to do so meaningfully.

We would appreciate hearing from you by March 13, 2019 on your intentions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



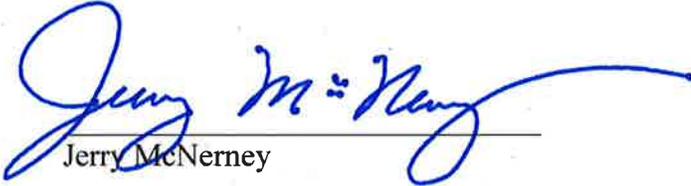
Peter A. DeFazio



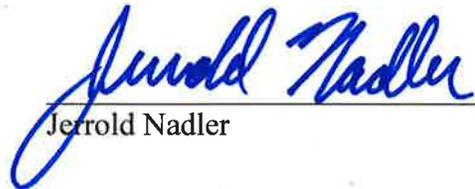
Grace F. Napolitano



Donald S. Beyer Jr.



Jerry McNeerney



Jerrold Nadler



Nanette Diaz Barragan



Bobby L. Rush



Darren Soto



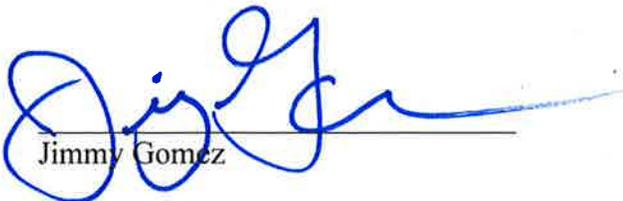
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.



Christopher H. Smith



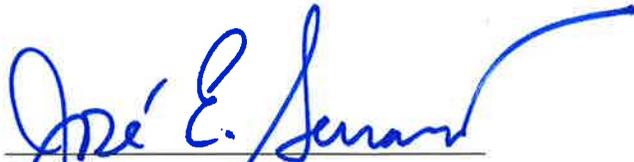
Grace Meng



Jimmy Gomez



Gwen Moore



José E. Serrano



Salud Carbajal



Daniel W. Lipinski



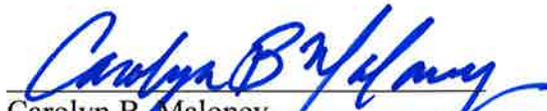
Gerald E. Connolly



Tim Ryan



Ro Khanna



Carolyn B. Maloney



Suzanne Bonamici



Kathy Castor



Lucille Roybal-Allard



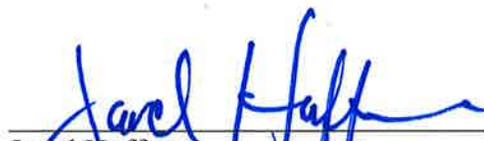
Albio Sires



Ruben Gallego



Paul D. Tonko



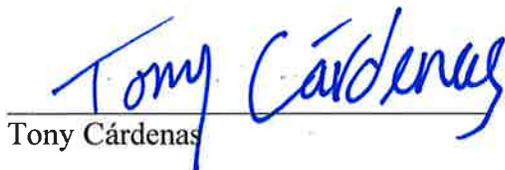
Jared Huffman


Mike Quigley


Matt Cartwright

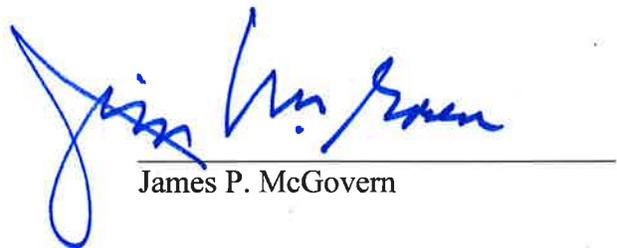

Earl Blumenauer


Joseph P. Kennedy, III


Tony Cárdenas


Debbie Dingell


Ed Case


James P. McGovern


Brendan F. Boyle


Alan Lowenthal


Lisa Blunt Rochester


Brian Higgins


Steve Cohen


Zoe Lofgren



Mark Takano



A. Donald McEachin



Tulsi Gabbard



Julia Brownley



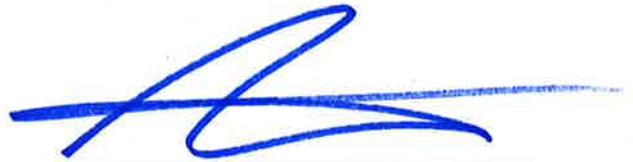
Barbara Lee



Mark DeSaulnier



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez



Adriano Espalliat



Jamie Raskin



Frederica S. Wilson



Jan Schakowsky



Rick Larsen



Judy Chu



Eleanor Holmes Norton



Anna G. Eshoo



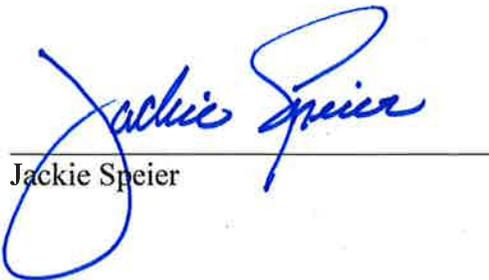
Bennie G. Thompson



Susan A. Davis



Yvette D. Clarke



Jackie Speier



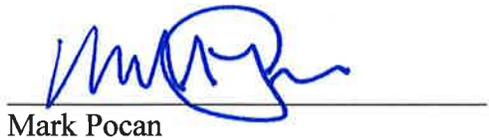
Ed Perlmutter



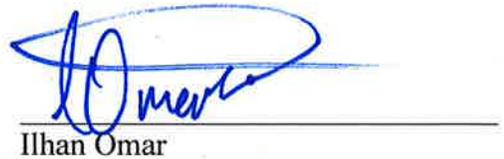
Daniel T. Kildee



Sean Casten



Mark Pocan



Ilhan Omar



Peter Welch



Donna E. Shalala



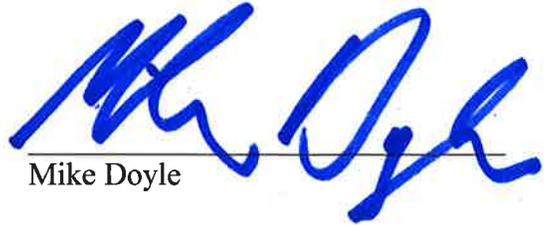
Betty McCollum



Elijah E. Cummings



Tom Suozzi



Mike Doyle



C.A. Dutch Ruppensberger



John P. Sarbanes



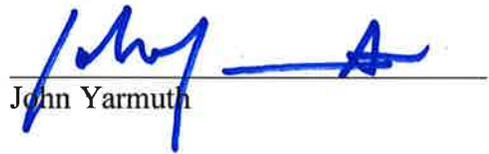
Raul M. Grijalva



Adam Smith



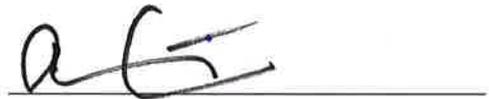
Nydia M. Velázquez



John Yarmuth



Janana Hayes



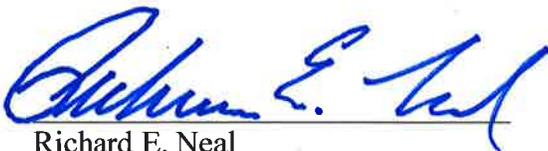
André Carson



Mark Takano



Debbie Wasserman Schultz



Richard E. Neal



Denny Heck

Tom Malinowski

Tom Malinowski

Alma S. Adams

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.

Doris Matsui

Doris Matsui

David E. Price

David E. Price

Andy Levin

Andy Levin

Diana DeGette

Diana DeGette

Katie Hill

Katie Hill

Elaine Luria

Elaine Luria

Katherine Clark

Katherine Clark

Brad Sherman

Brad Sherman

Maxine Waters

Maxine Waters

Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr.

Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr.

Bill Foster

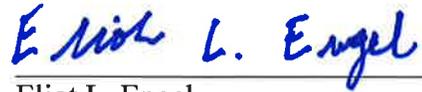
Bill Foster

Chellie Pingree

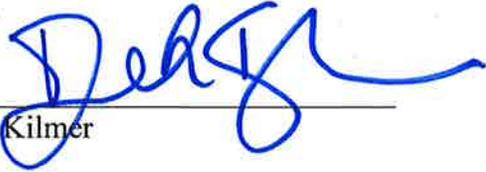
Chellie Pingree



Ted W. Lieu



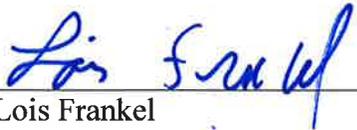
Eliot L. Engel



Derek Kilmer



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan



Lois Frankel



Anthony G. Brown



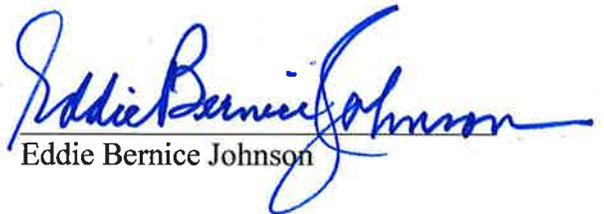
Rashida Tlaib



Mike Thompson



David N. Cicilline



Eddie Bernice Johnson



Marcy Kaptur



Ann Kirkpatrick



Alcee L. Hastings



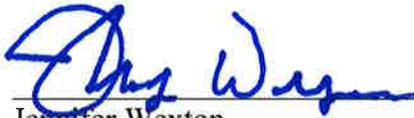
Elissa Slotkin



Donald Norcross



James R. Langevin



Jennifer Wexton



Lauren Underwood



Deb Haaland



Raja Krishnamoorthi



Adam B. Schiff



Donald M. Payne, Jr.



Marcia L. Fudge



Joseph D. Morelle



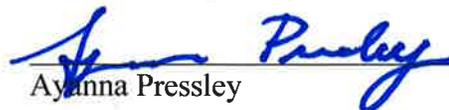
Linda T. Sánchez



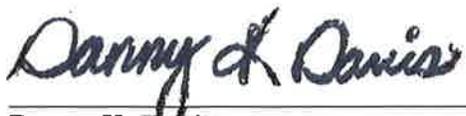
Mikie Sherrill



Rosa L. DeLauro



Ayanna Pressley



Danny K. Davis



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell



Norma J. Torres



Mary Gay Scanlon



Harley Rouda



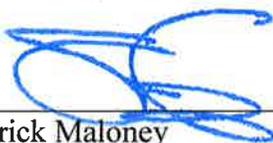
Chris Pappas



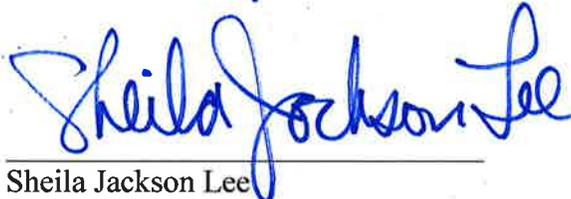
Dina Titus



Stephen F. Lynch



Sean Patrick Maloney



Sheila Jackson Lee



Al Green



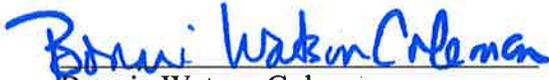
Jesús G. "Chuy" García



Ann McLane Kuster



Eric Swalwell


Bonnie Watson Coleman


Ted Deutch

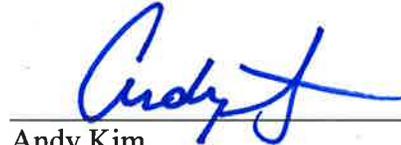

Lori Trahan


Val Demings


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott


Raul Ruiz, M.D.

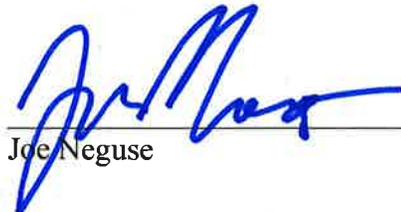

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

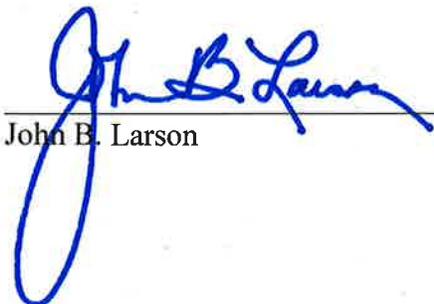

Andy Kim


Suzan DeBene


Karen Bass


Antonio Delgado


Joe Neguse


John B. Larson


Angie Craig


Colin Allred


Nita M. Lowey


Sharice L. Davids


Xochitl Torres Small


Lucy McBath


Kathleen M. Rice


Katie Porter


Pete Aguilar