

Allagash Brewing Company * Arbor Brewing Company * Arcadia Brewing Company * Brewery Vivant
Central Waters Brewing Company * Cranker's Brewery * DryHop Brewers
Flossmoor Station Restaurant and Brewery * Founders Brewing Company * Goose Island Beer Company
Half Acre Beer Company * Harmony Brewing Company * Kelso Beer Company * Lakefront Brewery, Inc.
New Belgium Brewing Company * Revolution Brewing * Right Brain Brewery * Short's Brewing Company
Sierra Nevada Brewing Company * Temperance Beer Company

June 12, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We write today to urge you and your Administration to finalize and issue guidance that provides greater clarity that a variety of water bodies are protected from pollution by the Clean Water Act.

Like you, many of us started as home brewers. Like you, we learned the importance of the quality of each of the ingredients we used in our beer – water, hops, barley and yeast. Perhaps none of those ingredients is more important than water, which makes up roughly 90 percent of any beer. Our businesses – which jointly employ more than 1,500 people – depend on the availability of a clean, reliable water supply.

But America's waterways are vital to more than great-tasting beer. They are critical to our environment, our communities, our economy, and our health. As you know, the Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers have jointly drafted guidelines for identifying protected waters, to replace similar guidelines issued by the Bush Administration that, unfortunately, have been interpreted to leave thousands of streams and wetlands without protection from pollution. As drafted, the new guidelines are far more consistent with the law and the Clean Water Act's history and intent than the previous administration's guidance. Furthermore, these guidelines enjoy vast public support from hundreds of thousands of concerned citizens, sportsmen, public health professionals, elected officials, and farmers.

The guidelines would make clear that headwater and intermittently-flowing tributary streams must ordinarily be protected, benefitting the more than 117 million Americans whose drinking water comes from systems drawing supply from such streams. Likewise, applying the guidelines would restore clear protection for wetlands adjacent to tributaries and would improve protection for other important waters, including so-called "isolated" waters. The latter group of resources includes roughly 20 percent of the continental U.S.'s wetlands, which provide vital services like floodwater storage, pollutant filtration, and groundwater recharge. In other words, these guidelines will directly promote clean water.

And protecting clean water is our main concern. Not only does the great-tasting beer we brew depend on it, but so do the communities in which we operate. That's why we cannot wait to protect our nation's waters. We would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible on when your administration will release the final guidelines. Thank you in advance for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



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Human Resources Director
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Head Brewer
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Owner
Ann Arbor, MI



Barry Van Dyke
Jackson Van Dyke
Co-Owners/ Co-Brewers
Grand Rapids, MI



Tim Suprise
Founder/ President
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