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

The Honorable R.D. James  
Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works  
U.S. Department of the Army  
104 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310  


Dear Acting Administrator Wheeler and Assistant Secretary James:  

We oppose the proposed repeal of the Clean Water Rule, which would weaken protections for critically important waterways like small streams and wetlands. Our craft breweries depend on those waterways to provide the clean water that we use to brew our beer.
Beer is mostly water, so the quality of our source water affects our finished product. Even small chemical disruptions in our water supply can alter the taste of a brew or influence factors like shelf life and foam pattern. We need reliable sources of clean water to consistently produce the great beer that is key to our success. Thanks in part to this important natural resource, the craft brewing industry contributes about $67.8 billion to the U.S. economy each year, along with 456,000 jobs.¹

Brewers have been proud to support the Clean Water Rule since it was first proposed. Because the rule helped protect the sources of drinking water for 117 million Americans from pollution and destruction, it provided certainty that we would continue to have access to the clean water on which our livelihoods depend. Importantly, the rule was based on sound science. The record supporting the rule showed unequivocally that the waters it protected had biological, chemical, and physical connections to larger downstream waterways.

This proposed repeal, to the contrary, ignores the overwhelming scientific evidence that protecting small streams and wetlands is essential to ensuring the quality of America’s water sources. We strongly oppose eliminating guaranteed protections for all waters that the science shows to be important to downstream water quality.

The Clean Water Rule created more certainty, not less, regarding which waters are federally protected. Reinstating the regulations that were in place prior to the adoption of the rule would unnecessarily put our water sources at risk. We must maintain clear protections for the vulnerable waterways that provide our most important ingredient.

We are depending on you not to roll back the safeguards established under the Clean Water Rule. Protecting clean water is central to our long-term business success. Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jason Perkins
Brewmaster
Portland, ME

Mark Burford
Founder
Patchogue, NY

Adam Ingle
Head Brewer
Knoxville, TN

Kris Spaulding
Co-Owner
Grand Rapids, MI

Brandon Wright
Co-Owner
Chicago, IL

Eileen Garrity
Creative & Communications
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Matthew Greff
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Ann Arbor, MI

Peggy Zwerver
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Adam Avery
Founder & CEO
Boulder, CO

Brent Schwoerer
Owner/Founder/Brewer
Springfield, IL

Sandy & Jay Boss
Febbo Owners/Brewers
St. Paul, MN

Ryan Czaja
Head Brewer
Flossmoor, IL

Peggy Zwerver
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Frank Moeller
Founder/Brewer
Troutville, VA

Luke Livingston
Founder/President
Lewiston, ME

Dave Engbers
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