

**Allagash Brewing Company * Alliance Brewing Company * Andersonville Brewing Co.
Arbor Brewing Company Avery Brewing Company * Bang Brewing
Bar Hygge/Brewery Techne * Baxter Brewing Co. * Blue Point Brewing Company
Brewery Vivant * DryHop Brewers * Earth Bread + Brewery
Engrained Brewing Company * Flossmoor Station Restaurant & Brewery
Flying Mouse Brewery * Founders Brewing Company * Fremont Brewing
Great Lakes Brewing Company * Half Acre Beer Company * Half Moon Bay Brewing Co.
Harmony Brewing Company * Hops & Grain Brewing * Hopworks Urban Brewery
Horse & Dragon Brewing Company * Intersect Brewing * La Birreria
Lagunitas Brewing Company * Lakefront Brewery * Land Grant Brewing Company
Lost Rhino Brewing Company * Maine Beer Company * McClellan's Brewing Company
New Belgium Brewing Company * Oak Park Brewing Co. * Odell Brewing Company
Old Bust Head Brewing Company * One World Brewing * Revolution Brewing
Right Brain Brewery * Rising Tide Brewing Company * Saint Benjamin Brewing Co.
Short's Brewing Company Sleepy Dog Brewery * Smartmouth Brewing Company
Smuttnose Brewing Co. * Snowbank Brewing * Starr Hill Brewery
SweetWater Brewing Company * Temperance Beer Co.
Two Brothers Brewing Company * Wild Onion Brewery**

August 13, 2018

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

RE: Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0203: Definition of "Waters of the United States"—Recodification of Preexisting Rule, 83 Fed. Reg. 32,227 (July 12, 2018)

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.

¹ Brewers Association statistics from 2016. <https://www.brewersassociation.org/statistics/economic-impact-data/>.

Sincerely,



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Brewmaster
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Knoxville, TN



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Co-Owner
Grand Rapids, MI



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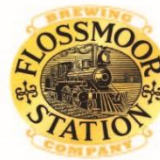
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