

- Alaska Wilderness League ● American Rivers ● Bluegreen Alliance ● Clean Water Action
- Defenders of Wildlife ● Earthjustice ● Friends of the Earth ● Greenpeace
- League of Conservation Voters ● Natural Resources Defense Council ● Sierra Club
- Southern Environmental Law Center

March 24, 2015

Dear Senator:

We urge you to oppose Amendment No. 347 to Senate Concurrent Resolution 11, setting the budget for FY 2016. The amendment, offered by Senator Barrasso, seeks to interject confusing parameters into the science-based and transparent rulemaking process the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency followed to develop the Clean Water rule. Moreover, Senator Barrasso is asking you to take a position that would be interpreted by the rule's opponents as opposing the Clean Water Rule before it is even finalized. This rule restores critical protections to the drinking water sources of 1 in 3 Americans.

Do not be fooled, Senator Barrasso's Dirty Water amendment inserts overly broad and misleading language that attempts to set the stage for subsequent legislation to deny the protections of the Clean Water Act for much of the nation's water bodies. It encourages policies that deny clean water protections to a host of different water bodies, relying on new and undefined terms like "isolated" and "water delivery ... systems."

Senator Barrasso's Dirty Water amendment is an attempt to get the Senate and you on record to support future restrictions on EPA's mandate to protect human health and the environment under the Clean Water Act.

The Clean Water Rule simply clarifies, based on Supreme Court rulings and more than 1,200 peer-reviewed scientific analyses, which waters are and are not essential to protect under the Clean Water Act. This important clarification and the underlying rulemaking that the Barrasso amendment seeks to interfere with has enjoyed tremendous public input and substantive comment, and broad support from over 800,000 Americans, with comments on the rulemaking being in support by a margin of nearly 4 to 1. The amendment offered by Senator Barrasso seeks to toss aside the voluminous public and scientific input that has been offered through an open and transparent process and set the stage for Congressional interference with that process later this year. We urge you to vote NO on Senator Barrasso's dirty water amendment.

Sincerely,

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