Ms. Donna Downing
Office of Water
Environmental Protection Agency
Via email to CWAwaters@epa.gov

Mr. Gib Owen
Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
Department of the Army
Via email to gib.a.owen.civ@mail.mil

Dear Ms. Downing and Mr. Owen:

We oppose any changes to the Clean Water Rule that would weaken the protections it established 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 $55.7 billion to the U.S. economy each year, along with 424,000 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.

In a February 28 executive order, President Trump directed your agencies to review the Clean Water Rule and rescind or revise it, without providing any rational justification for doing so. Your agencies have now formally proposed to repeal the rule, with the stated intent of later adopting a replacement. We strongly oppose any rollbacks from ensuring guaranteed protections for all waters that the science shows to be important to downstream water quality.

We understand that the president directed your agencies to develop the new rule under a different legal test. That test has no scientific basis and would eliminate guaranteed safeguards for countless wetlands, as well as innumerable streams that don’t flow year-round. We oppose that approach because it would fail to preserve water quality and was rejected by a majority of the Supreme Court.

We are depending on you to maintain or strengthen 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

Brandon Wright
Co-Owner
Chicago, IL

Matthew Greff
Proprietor
Ann Arbor, MI

Adam Avery
Founder & CEO
Boulder, CO

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

Peggy Zwerver
Co-Owner
Philadelphia, PA

Eileen Garrity
Creative & Communications
Chicago, IL

Peggy Zwerver
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Brent Schwoerer
Owner/Founder/Brewer
Springfield, IL

Ryan Czaja
Head Brewer
Flossmoor, IL

Frank Moeller
Founder/Brewer
Troutville, VA

Dave Engbers
Co-Founder
Grand Rapids, MI

Sara Nelson
Co-Founder
Seattle, WA

Saul Kliorys
Sustainability Manager
Cleveland, OH

Kris Spaulding
Co-Owner
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Matt Gallagher  
Head Brewer  
Chicago, IL

Mary Oldham  
Marketing Dir.  
Half Moon Bay, CA

Barry VanDyke  
Co-Founder  
Grand Rapids, MI

Josh Hare  
Founder/President  
Austin, TX

Christian Ettinger  
Brewmaster & Founder  
Portland, OR

Carol & Tim Cochran  
Co-Founders  
Fort Collins, CO

Will & Mandie Herdrick  
Founders/Owners  
Fort Collins, CO

Noemi Ferro  
Marketing Manager  
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Leon Sharyon  
EVP Special Projects  
Petaluma, CA

Russell J. Klisch  
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Milwaukee, WI

Matthew Hagerman  
CEO/Founder  
Ashburn, VA

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