

Allagash Brewing Company * Arbor Brewing Company * Arcadia Brewing Company * Baxter Brewing Company
La Birreria Brewery * Brewery Ommegang * Brewery Vivant * Central Waters Brewing Company * Cranker's Brewery
Dryhop Brewers * Finch's Beer Company * Flossmoor Station Restaurant and Brewery
Founders Brewing Company * Goose Island Beer Company * Half Acre Beer Company
Harmony Brewing Company * Hi-Wire Brewing * Hops & Grain Brewery * Kelso Beer Company
Lagunitas Brewing Company * Lakefront Brewery, Inc. * Maine Beer Company * New Belgium Brewing Company
Revolution Brewing * Right Brain Brewery * Short's Brewing Company
Sierra Nevada Brewing Company * Temperance Beer Company * Wild Onion Brewing Company

December 3, 2013

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

Dear President Obama:

We applaud the two important steps that your Administration recently took to provide safeguards for the water sources on which many of our breweries depend. EPA's release of the report titled *Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters* demonstrates your commitment to making policy decisions based on science. The decision to move forward with a rule-making to clarify protections under the Clean Water Act will protect far more than the water sources for our great-tasting beer – it will ensure that the more than 117 million Americans whose drinking water comes from systems drawing supply from such streams are protected as well.

As a home brewer, you understand that the flavor of a beer depends on much more than hops and malt. Beer is about 90 percent water, making local water supply quality and its characteristics, such as pH and mineral content, critical to beer brewing and the flavor of many classic brews. While many of our brewers are scientists, all of them use their deep understanding of the characteristics of our local water supplies to maintain a consistent taste to our beer, or to experiment with combinations of minerals, salts and other ingredients to create new brews. Changes to our water supply – whether we draw directly from a water source or from a municipal supply – threaten our ability to consistently produce our great-tasting beer and thus, our bottom line. Our businesses – which jointly employ more than 2,200 people – depend on the availability of a clean, reliable water supply.

For too long, too many of our rivers, streams and wetlands have been in legal limbo, impacting not only brewing, but hundreds of other businesses, which is why hundreds of thousands of concerned citizens, sportsmen, public health professionals, elected officials, and farmers join us in urging your Administration to ensure the rule-making process continues to move forward.

The next important step in that process, as you know, is EPA's Science Advisory Board meeting to accept public comment on the *Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands* report. Please closely review the testimony, especially regarding waters that are located away from tributary streams and their floodplains. These critical resources provide vital services like floodwater storage, pollutant filtration, and groundwater recharge.

Protecting clean water is central to our business ethic. Not only does the great-tasting beer we brew depend on it, but so do the communities in which we operate. Thank you in advance for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



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Founder
Portland, ME



Paul Graham
Owner
Amherst, WI



Rene Greff
Owner
Ann Arbor, MI



Adam Mills
Head Brewer
Big Rapids, MI



Tim Suprise
Founder/President
Battle Creek, MI



Greg Shuff
Owner/Manager
Chicago, IL



H. Luke Livingston
Founder/President
Lewiston, ME



Ben Finch
Owner
Chicago, IL



Fred Avila
Head Brewer
New York, NY



Bjorn Johnson
Head Brewer
Flossmoor, IL



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