



Danielle Quist
Senior Counsel for Public Policy
American Farm Bureau Federation
600 Maryland Ave. SW
Suite 1000W
Washington, DC 20024

July 15, 2014

Dear Ms. Quist:

Thank you for your response to my letter inviting the American Farm Bureau Federation to debate the impacts of the clean water protections proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers.

You rightly note that the American Farm Bureau Federation has “dedicated itself” to blocking the clean water proposal. Apparently that dedication includes ensuring that legislators are flooded with misleading material and then refusing opportunities to have a genuine exchange of ideas and information. Why else turn down a chance to air differences about the clean water proposal and to enable interested policy makers to hear both sides and judge for themselves?

Your letter provides no rationale for avoiding a debate. You say the American Farm Bureau Federation hopes for “mutually respectful discussions among all interested stakeholders.” Why wouldn’t a debate offer the opportunity for one such discussion? You say you will continue to direct your comments to, among others, “the public and our elected officials.” But wouldn’t a debate be a way to do just that?

The American Farm Bureau Federation has been the most vocal opponent of the clean water proposal, and its false and misleading claims are echoed by others. If the American Farm Bureau Federation were truly interested in discussion and truly “care[d] about both our environment and our economic health,” it would be open to a rigorous public debate about its claims about the clean water proposal.

NRDC would still welcome the opportunity to have an open debate on these important matters. The public should have the chance to get a full and accurate understanding of what's at stake.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JD', is centered below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Jon P. Devine, Jr.
Senior Attorney, Water Program
Natural Resources Defense Council