



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION\*

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July 14, 2014

Mr. Jon Devine  
Senior Attorney  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
1152 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, #300  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Devine:

Thank you for your letter regarding Farm Bureau's concerns about how the proposed Waters of the U.S. rule will affect farmers, ranchers and other landowners. The American Farm Bureau Federation has indeed dedicated itself to opposing the Environmental Protection Agency's and Corps of Engineers' regulatory expansion and attempted end-run around the limits set in the Clean Water Act and upheld by the Supreme Court. That is what we vowed in April, after thoroughly reviewing the proposal.

While Farm Bureau has been a leader in the fight, it is far from being alone in its opposition to the proposal. Numerous small business and other industry groups have expressed grave concerns that the language of the rule (notwithstanding EPA's public statements to the contrary) would needlessly hamstring farming and ranching, home building and commercial development, the development of energy resources and economic growth.

AFBF is hopeful that the long-term process of working for clean water will include serious and mutually respectful discussions among all interested stakeholders who care about both our environment and our economic health. In the meantime, we will continue to direct our comments, concerns and questions about this proposed rule to the agencies, the public and our elected officials.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Danielle Quist".

Danielle Quist  
Senior Counsel for Policy

cc: Bob Stallman