



May 11, 2015

Dear Representative,

The National Corn Growers Association urges you to support of H.R. 1732, *the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act of 2015*. This legislation would compel the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to withdraw their Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) proposed rule and develop a new proposal after consulting with states and other important stakeholders.

Founded in 1957, The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) represents approximately 42,000 dues-paying corn growers and the interests of more than 300,000 farmers who contribute through corn checkoff programs in their states. NCGA and its 48 affiliated state associations and checkoff organizations work together to help protect and advance corn growers' interests. Corn growers wholeheartedly embrace the Clean Water Act's goal of protecting water quality and intended uses of waters and waterways across the country. They know that they play an important part in reaching that goal in many ways, including their efforts to minimize sediment and nutrient losses from their farms, and that their work helps the waterways near their farms and the navigable waters further downstream.

NCGA has been a consistent advocate for a rulemaking that is grounded in the 1972 Clean Water Act's foundational concept that WOTUS are part of U.S. "commerce" and that navigability is their defining feature leading to commerce. Other waters may be WOTUS under the law, but they must have direct and significant enough hydrological contact with navigable waters to be considered unequivocally part of a system of waters defined by the property of navigability that leads to commerce. We have also advocated for a rulemaking to clearly establish how the Agencies will determine when these other, non-navigable waters have sufficient flow and connections to be considered part of a system of navigable waters, and therefore jurisdictional. Such a rule is needed to give farmers greater clarity and certainty about their responsibilities under the CWA.

NCGA has serious concerns with the Agencies' jointly proposed rulemaking that would redefine WOTUS under the Clean Water Act. We believe it is necessary that the agencies re-propose the rule and allow for notice and comment from those within the regulated community such as NCGA. By requiring EPA and the Corps to withdraw the proposed rule, H.R. 1732 appropriately initiates a process that will further protect our nation's environmental assets, assure our ability to engage in robust economic activity, and earn broad support from state and local officials and the regulated community.

We ask you to vote in support of H.R. 1732, *the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act of 2015*, and to oppose any amendments to the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chip Bowling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chip Bowling
President
National Corn Growers Association