

September 9, 2014

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

The undersigned public health organizations urge you to oppose H.R. 5078, the Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act of 2014. The public health community recognizes that clean water and healthy populations are inextricably linked and that polluted water can expose Americans to harmful contaminants in numerous ways. The public depends on water not only for basic survival, but for recreation, bathing, cleaning and cooking. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should be allowed to move forward with developing a rule that will improve water quality and protect the health of America's families and children.

The Clean Water Act was designed to keep pollution, including carcinogens, nutrient runoff, sewage and oil, out of the nation's water. EPA's proposed rule seeks to clarify the protection of streams and wetlands under the Clean Water Act, including streams that provide some portion of water to drinking water systems that serve nearly 117 million people. The proposed rule would clarify which waters are protected and which are not, allowing EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to best protect water quality and public health. Unfortunately, H.R. 5078 would block these efforts and prevent EPA from moving forward with implementing the law and ensuring the protection of water quality for millions of Americans.

Clean water is one of our greatest necessities and a cornerstone of public health. EPA should be allowed to move forward in its efforts to better protect public health from water pollution through the development of a science-based rule.

Sincerely,

American Public Health Association
Children's Environmental Health Network
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Trust for America's Health