



America's Cement Manufacturers™

Portland Cement Association  
1150 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036-4104  
202.408.9494 Fax 202.408.0877  
www.cement.org

April 30, 2015

The Honorable James Inhofe  
Chairman  
Committee on the Environment and Public Works  
The U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inhofe:

The Portland Cement Association (PCA) appreciates the leadership you and your colleagues on the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works are demonstrating in promoting policies that balance environmental stewardship and a healthy economy. PCA represents 27 U.S. cement companies operating 82 manufacturing plants in 35 states. Collectively, these companies account for approximately 80% of domestic cement-making capacity, with distribution centers in all 50 states.

Cement makers share your committee's concerns regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) and the Corps of Engineers' (Corp.) proposed rule redefining "waters of the U.S." under the Clean Water Act. Our concerns are based on the expansive effects it will have on the Agencies' regulatory authorities – effects which go well beyond Congressional direction and Supreme Court holdings. They are also based on the fact that the rule will add significant costs to our plant operations with little environmental benefit.

On numerous occasions PCA has urged EPA and the Corps to withdraw the proposed rule and to work with state and local officials and stakeholders to develop a proposal that respects the jurisdictional limitations that have been imposed by Congress and affirmed by the Supreme Court. The procedural requirements contained in "Federal Water Quality Protection Act of 2015" initiate a process that will achieve this balance, while ensuring environmental protection. Additionally, we appreciate the fact that the legislation outlines helpful parameters to guide federal regulators in crafting a balanced rule.

Cement makers applaud your committee's leadership and the bipartisan efforts of Senators Barrasso and Donnelly in offering the "Federal Water Quality Protection Act of 2015." If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James G. Toscas".

James G. Toscas  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Copy: Members of the Committee on the Environment and Public Works