



April 30, 2015

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
Committee on Environment and
Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and
Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Inhofe and Boxer:

I am writing on behalf of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), the nation's largest general farm organization, concerning the *Federal Water Quality Protection Act*. AFBF strongly supports passage of this critical legislation and we urge all members of the Senate to vote for the bill.

The *Federal Water Quality Protection Act* addresses critical concerns we have with EPA's "waters of the U.S." proposed rule. There can be no question that the rule poses a serious threat to farmers, ranchers and private landowners. The proposal, if finalized, would allow EPA to regulate well beyond the limits authorized by Congress and affirmed by the Supreme Court. Simply put, EPA's proposed rule would significantly expand the scope of "navigable water" subject to Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction. As a practical matter, it would increase permitting requirements and result in increased costs, delayed decisions and third party litigation, all of which would burden the economy and raise consumer costs without advancing the objectives of the CWA.

The *Federal Water Quality Protection Act* takes a responsible approach to ensure a final rule reflects the limits authorized in the Clean Water Act. This legislation guides agencies in this rulemaking in a way that, without diminishing their authority, respects the legitimate views of local and state officials, the regulated community, and Congress itself – and which still allows the agencies to proceed with a rule based on their stated intent – clarity and certainty.

The *Federal Water Quality Protection Act* deserves strong, bipartisan support and we applaud Senators Barrasso and Donnelly's leadership in producing a practical approach to guide EPA in its rulemaking efforts. We look forward to working with members of the Senate to ensure swift consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Stallman
President

Cc: Sen Barrasso and Sen Donnelly