

**Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife
hearing entitled, “Erosion of Exemptions and Expansion of Federal Control –
Implementation of the Definition of Waters of the United States”
Tuesday, May 24, 2016
Responses for the Record
Mr. Don Parrish**

Don R Parrish
American Farm Bureau Federation

I have attached the information requested by the committee and Senator Whitehouse specifically regarding communications and documentation related to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers routinely regulating “puddles” (puddles are defined here as small wet-spots and tire ruts that hold rainwater on the surface of land and that do not meet the U.S. Army Corps wetland criteria). I have also attached supporting documentation that shows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers routinely engaging in regulatory over-reach by requiring CWA permits when farmers change one type of crop to another or one type of farming activity to another type of farming activity. This documentation is summarized and provided by Ms. Jody Gallaway, President of Gallaway Enterprises. These examples reflect her firsthand knowledge and her on-the-ground experiences with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The American Farm Bureau would welcome an opportunity to work in a bipartisan manner to craft a legislative solution that would ensure that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not improperly limit or narrow the exemptions authorized by Congress in Section 404 f of the Clean Water Act to protect normal farming operations.