April 30, 2015

The Honorable Jim Inhofe
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
205 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Boxer, Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow:

The undersigned agricultural organizations would like to convey our strong support for the *Federal Water Quality Protection Act*. We are committed to working with Senators Barrasso and Donnelly in pressing for its swift consideration by the Senate.

Our organizations have significant concerns about the regulatory action jointly proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to redefine federal jurisdiction for "waters of the U.S." under the Clean Water Act. The *Federal Water Quality Protection Act* addresses significant flaws in the proposed WOTUS regulation and requires a more comprehensive regulatory proposal after the agencies have fully engaged in meaningful stakeholder consultation and administrative procedures. The sooner Congress acts, the sooner the agencies can re-craft a rule that more accurately reflects the will of Congress, while respecting the concerns of all affected parties. By acting before the agencies' regulation is promulgated, Congress can provide the best opportunity and path to ensure that a final rule is practical, reflects congressional intent, and ensures appropriate environmental safeguards.

We applaud this legislation because it establishes sound principles to guide the agencies' action on a "waters of the U.S." rule so that the final result reflects the statutory limits created by Congress and ensures proper administrative procedures are followed. This legislation guides the agencies with regulatory principles that, when followed, will achieve greater balance and generate more widespread acceptance of the final provisions. We urge you to give strong support and quick consideration to the *Federal Water Quality Protection Act*.

Sincerely,

Agri-Mark, Inc.

American Agri-Women
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Horse Council
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
Arkansas Pork Producers Association
Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Colorado Pork Producers Council
Dairy Producers of New Mexico
Dairy Producers of Utah
Earthmoving Contractors Association of Texas
Exotic Wildlife Association
Georgia Pork Producers Association
GROWMARK, Inc.
Idaho Dairymen's Association
Illinois Pork Producers Association
Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas
Indiana Pork Producers Association
Iowa Pork Producers Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Pork Association
Kentucky Pork Producers Association
Michigan Pork Producers Association
Milk Producers Council
Minnesota Agri-Women
Minnesota Pork Producers Association
Missouri Cattlemen's Association
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Missouri Dairy Association
Missouri Pork Association
Missouri Soybean Association
National All-Jersey
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Pork Producers Council
National Sorghum Producers
National Turkey Federation
Nebraska Pork Producers Association, Inc
North Carolina Pork Council
Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives

Oklahoma Pork Council
Oregon Dairy Farmer's Association
Riverside & Landowners Protection Coalition
Select Milk Producers, Inc.
South Dakota Pork Producers Council
South East Dairy Farmers Association
South Texans' Property Rights Association
South Texas Cotton & Grain Association
Southwest Council of Agribusiness
St. Albans Cooperative Creamery Inc.
Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida
Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Texas Forestry Association
Texas Pork Producers Association
Texas Pork Producers Association
Texas Poultry Federation
Texas Seed Trade Association
Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Association
Texas Wheat Producers Association
Texas Wine and Grape Growers
U.S. Cattlemen's Association
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association
United Egg Producers
USA Rice Federation
Virginia Agribusiness Council
Virginia Pork Council, Inc.
Virginia Poultry Federation
Virginia State Dairymen's Association
Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association
Washington State Dairy Federation
Western Peanut Growers Association
Western United Dairymen
Wisconsin Pork Association
Wyoming Ag-Business Association
Wyoming Crop Improvement Association
Wyoming Wheat Growers Association

Cc: Sen. Barrasso and Sen. Donnelly