**Alabama Rivers Alliance \* Alliance for the Great Lakes \* Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments \* American Rivers \* BlueGreen Alliance \* Cahaba River Society \* Center for a Sustainable Coast \***

**Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future \* Clean Water Action \* Conservation Colorado \***

**Conservation Voters New Mexico \* Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania \* Earthjustice \***

**Endangered Habitats League \* Endangered Species Coalition \* Environmental Law and Policy Center \* Environmental League of Massachusetts \* Environmental Protection Network \* GreenLatinos \* Healing Our Waters- Great Lakes Coalition \* Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited \* League of Conservation Voters\* Maryland League of Conservation Voters \* Massachusetts River Alliance \* Michigan League of Conservation Voters \* Montana Audubon \* Montana Conservation Voters \* Natural Resources Defense Council \* Nevada Conservation League \* New Jersey League of Conservation Voters \* New York League of Conservation Voters \* North Carolina League of Conservation Voters\* Ohio Environmental Council \* Oregon Environmental Council \* Oregon League of Conservation Voters \* Pennsylvania Council of Churches \* PolicyLink \* Prairie Rivers Network \* River Network \* Save the River/Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper \* Sierra Club \* Southern Environmental Law Center \* Virginia League of Conservation Voters \* Washington Conservation Voters \* Washington Environmental Council**

June 26, 2018

Dear Senator:

Our organizations, along with our millions of members and supporters, urge you to oppose all anti-environmental riders proposed for inclusion in the H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, including any amendments that would undermine or repeal the 2015 Clean Water Rule.

Opponents of the critical Clean Water Rule have been pushing, on numerous pending bills, a radical rider that would eliminate the vital safeguards of the Clean Water Rule for the waters that feed the drinking water of 117 million people and protect streams, headwaters, wetlands and other water bodies that serve as habitat for wildlife, reduce flooding risk, and naturally filter pollution. The dangerous provision would subvert the entire rulemaking process by disregarding public input, including the over 1.5 million comments submitted in support of the Rule or opposing attempts to roll it back. Additionally, it would ignore the strong scientific foundation for the Rule and would undermine Clean Water Act implementation by reverting to an inconsistent and uncertain regulatory scheme, which stakeholders across the board have said is unworkable. This rider is nothing but an attempt by some in Congress to help the administration with their reckless, unpopular, and failing effort to decimate clean water protections.

**It’s really this simple: a vote for this rider is a vote against clean water, a vote to expose even more communities to unsafe drinking water, a vote to limit the scope of the Clean Water Act, and a vote to allow polluters to destroy our precious waterways. Enough is enough: it’s time for Congress to stand up to protect clean water.**

The Clean Water Rule clarified guaranteed pollution safeguards to a variety of our nation’s waterways, including the small streams that feed the drinking water of one in three people. The Rule was developed in response to requests from stakeholders ranging from states to regulated dischargers to environmental groups to vulnerable communities facing health threats from water pollution. It was developed after years of scientific research and with an open and transparent rulemaking process, including development of a report that analyzed the findings of more than 1,200 peer-reviewed publications showing the critical functions of headwater, seasonal, and rain-dependent streams and wetlands to drinking water, pollution filtration, groundwater recharging, flood protection, and wildlife habitat.

The rulemaking process ensures that the agencies follow the law and that their actions can be fairly assessed by the courts. This extreme rider would disregard all of that process in favor of the inconsistent and uncertain regulatory scheme that existed before the Rule’s adoption.The EPA and the Army Corps already have the tools they need to reevaluate the Rule, but this dangerous rider would completely erase the 2015 Rule from the books, absolving the administration of a need to justify its repeal process against the backdrop of the strong scientific record and public comments that supported the Rule. Rather than starting from square one as this rider would direct, the agencies should follow the rulemaking process - objectively review the scientific record and the public input on the rulemaking actions, assess what specific parts of the Clean Water Rule they think could be improved, propose targeted amendments that don’t sacrifice important water bodies and that follow the scientific evidence, and seek and incorporate meaningful public input on that proposal.

We all depend upon clean water – for drinking, for the economy, for our health, and for outdoor recreation, including fishing, swimming, paddling and bird watching. But too many of our communities, particularly low-income communities and communities of color, are already disproportionately impacted by contaminated water. It is clear, now more than ever, that we need strong federal safeguards for our water, yet polluters and their allies continue their push to undermine one of our most valuable tools, the Clean Water Rule.

The Farm Bill should move us forward on conservation and agricultural policy, not be used to roll back fundamental health and environmental safeguards and undermine the rulemaking process. We ask you to stand up for clean water by opposing all radical and dangerous provisions to eliminate the Clean Water Rule, and further urge you to oppose all anti-environmental riders proposed for inclusion in H.R. 2.

Thank you for your consideration,

Alabama Rivers Alliance

Alliance for the Great Lakes

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

American Rivers

BlueGreen Alliance

Cahaba River Society

California League of Conservation Voters

Center for a Sustainable Coast

Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future

Clean Water Action

Conservation Colorado

Conservation Voters New Mexico

Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania

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Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited

League of Conservation Voters

Maryland League of Conservation Voters

Massachusetts River Alliance

Michigan League of Conservation Voters

Montana Audubon

Montana Conservation Voters

Natural Resources Defense Council

Nevada Conservation League

New Jersey League of Conservation Voters

New York League of Conservation Voters

North Carolina League of Conservation Voters

Ohio Environmental Council

Oregon Environmental Council

Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Pennsylvania Council of Churches

PolicyLink

Prairie Rivers Network

River Network

Save the River/Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper

Sierra Club

Southern Environmental Law Center

Virginia League of Conservation Voters

Washington Conservation Voters

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