

# Support the Clean Water for All Act (H.R. 6745)!

*Trump's Dirty Water Rule threatens the drinking water sources for millions of Americans and must be overturned.*

The [Clean Water for All Act](#)<sup>1</sup> has three primary goals — to reaffirm Congress' commitment to clean water, to **uphold** and **restore** bipartisan Clean Water Act protections, and to overturn the Trump administration's dangerous [Navigable Waters Protection Rule](#).<sup>2</sup> Also known as the “**Dirty Water Rule**,” **this rule is the most severe regulatory rollback of clean water protections in the history of the Clean Water Act.**

## **WHY IS IT CALLED THE DIRTY WATER RULE?**

The Dirty Water Rule significantly restricts which streams, wetlands, lakes, and other water bodies are protected under the Clean Water Act and will increase pollution into our nation's water. Our country has never come close to meeting the Act's ambitious goals of eliminating all pollution discharges and making all waters safe for swimming and fishing, and stripping away clean water protections will make it even harder to achieve these goals.

The Dirty Water Rule leaves the drinking water sources for millions of people — some have estimated as high as [200 million](#)<sup>3</sup> — unprotected from harmful pollution. The rule also excludes rain-dependent streams and millions of acres of wetlands and ponds from the Clean Water Act's pollution prevention, control, and clean-up requirements. These exclusions make the Act weaker than it has been in decades. **This regulatory rollback makes it easier for the fossil fuel industry, real estate developers, and others to pollute or destroy these water bodies.**

These unprotected streams and wetlands support many essential ecosystem services, including: filtering out pollution, acting as natural flood barriers, and feeding drinking water supplies. The Trump administration presents [no new scientific evidence](#)<sup>4</sup> to support eliminating protections for these streams and wetlands. Science advisors for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said in [February 2020 letter](#)<sup>5</sup> that “the Rule lacks a scientific jurisdiction, while potentially introducing new risks to human and environmental health.”

EPA's own [economic analysis](#)<sup>6</sup> of the rule found that it could lead to:

- More pollution to our waters, resulting in contaminated streams and degraded aquatic habitats.
- Increased risk of oil spills and floods.
- Greater drinking water treatment and dredging costs.

**Bottom line — the Dirty Water Rule is bad for our water, our health, and our environment.**



## WHY SHOULD YOU SUPPORT THE CLEAN WATER FOR ALL ACT?

The Dirty Water Rule significantly undermines clean water protections for streams, rivers, and wetlands that have been in place for nearly forty years and which have enjoyed bipartisan support. Congress needs to block this risky and unjustified rollback in water protections.

In addition to overturning the Dirty Water Rule, the [bill](#)<sup>7</sup> would direct EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) to promulgate a new regulation to protect rivers, streams, and wetlands that are based on the **best available science**.

The Clean Water for All Act would:

- Overturn the Dirty Water Rule, which was finalized by the Trump administration on April 21, 2020.
- Direct EPA and the Corps to promulgate a regulation to restore Clean Water Act protections to small streams and wetlands, based on the best available science.
- Require that the new regulation not degrade the nation's water quality or increase pollution into drinking water sources.
- Require that the new regulation not increase flooding-related risks to human life or property. It also must prevent disproportionate impacts on minority or low-income populations.
- Provide transparency and ample time for people to review the proposed regulation by requiring, at a minimum, 180 days to solicit public input on the proposal.

*The following organizations  
have endorsed the  
Clean Water for All Act/H.R. 6745:*

American Rivers  
American Sustainable  
Business Council  
Clean Water Action  
Earthjustice  
Environment America  
Environmental Law and Policy Center  
League of Conservation Voters  
National Parks  
Conservation Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Sierra Club  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
Trout Unlimited

**The Clean Water for All Act recognizes that access to clean water is a fundamental right and necessary to sustain life and economic livelihood.** In contrast, the Dirty Water Rule harms the health of our communities by giving powerful special interests the freedom to pollute and destroy our nation's water resources. We can't take clean water for granted and urge you to co-sponsor the Clean Water for All Act.

1 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6745>

2 <https://www.epa.gov/nwpr/final-rule-navigable-waters-protection-rule>

3 <https://www.southernenvironment.org/news-and-press/press-releases/conservation-groups-challenge-epas-gutting-of-clean-water-protections-in-federal-court>

4 <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/03/science-advisers-slam-epa-s-new-stream-and-wetland-protection-rule>

5 [https://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/WebBOARD/729C61F75763B8878525851F00632D1C/\\$File/EPA-SAB-20-002+.pdf](https://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/WebBOARD/729C61F75763B8878525851F00632D1C/$File/EPA-SAB-20-002+.pdf)

6 [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-01/documents/econ\\_analysis\\_-\\_nwpr.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-01/documents/econ_analysis_-_nwpr.pdf)

7 <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr6745/BILLS-116hr6745ih.pdf>

