

## Stop the Attack on the Clean Water Rule

### *Protect Maine's Drinking Water*

The Clean Water Rule was recently finalized by the Obama administration after years of planning, 400 stakeholder meetings, and more than a million public comments. It safeguards our water and restores protections to the drinking water sources for 1 in 3 Americans. This includes the drinking water for more than 1 out of 3 Maine residents. **The Clean Water Rule is a strong, commonsense policy that makes clean water a priority throughout the nation.** If Congress blocks the Clean Water Rule, at least 55% of Maine's stream miles and millions of acres of wetlands nationwide will again be at risk from pollution and destruction from development, oil and gas production, and other industrial activities. Blocking this rule would imperil drinking water sources, as well as the small businesses and communities that rely on clean water.



- **34% of Mainers** - get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams that are protected by the Clean Water Rule.
- **Protections were restored to 1,264 miles of streams** that feed into Maine's drinking water sources.
- **Thousands of acres of wetlands** that provide flood protection, recharge groundwater supplies, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are safeguarded.

### **Rule Provides More Economic Benefits than Costs**

- **The Clean Water Rule restores, but does not expand, the historic coverage of the Clean Water Act.** EPA estimates that the rule will provide **at least \$339 million and up to \$572 million annually in benefits** to the public, including reducing flooding, filtering pollution, providing wildlife habitat, supporting hunting and fishing, and recharging groundwater.
- **Protecting small streams and wetlands supports fish, wildlife and Maine's vibrant recreational industry.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that in 2011, \$1.4 billion was spent on wildlife recreation in ME, including \$372 million on fishing, and more than 1.1 million people participated in these recreation activities in Maine.
- **Maine's thriving brewing industry relies on clean water.** Small Maine breweries contribute almost \$328 million to our economy every year and support more than 3,400 jobs.
- **Maine Clean Water Rule Supporters**
  - More than 5,000 Mainers, out of more than 800,000 Americans support the rule.
  - The City of Portland, along with watershed groups like the Friends of Weskeag, in Midcoast Maine and environmental groups such as the Natural Resources Council of Maine and Environment support the rule.
  - Small businesses like Maine Brewing Company.
  - Maine joined 34 other states in 2006 to urge the Supreme Court to uphold strong federal clean water protections and in 2003 opposed Bush administration efforts to roll back protections for small streams and wetlands.
  - Recent polling shows that 79% of Americans want Congress to let EPA implement the Rule.

For more information please visit [protectcleanwater.org](http://protectcleanwater.org)