

Stop the Attack on the Clean Water Rule

Protect Maryland'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 2 in every 3 Maryland 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 59% of Maryland'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.



Patapsco River – Howard County, MD

- **67% of Maryland residents** get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams that are protected by the Clean Water Rule.
- **Protections were restored to 2,210 miles of streams** that feed into Maryland'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

- **This commonsense proposal 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 Maryland's vibrant recreational industry.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that in 2011, \$1.3 billion was spent on wildlife recreation in MD, including \$535 million on fishing alone, and more than 1.6 million people participated in these recreational activities in Maryland.
- **Maryland's thriving brewing industry relies on clean water.** Small Maryland breweries contribute almost \$4.6 million to our economy every year and support more than 5,422 jobs.

Maryland Clean Water Rule Supporters

- **Over 26,000 Maryland residents, out of more than 800,000 Americans, support the rule.**
- 67 conservation, environmental, faith, or health organizations and businesses, representing thousands.
- MD DEP, MD Attorney General, Cities of Baltimore, Mt. Rainier, College Park, Capitol Heights, Edmonston, New Carrollton, Rockville, as well as the Mayor of Forest Heights and dozens of other MD state and local elected officials. MD also joined 34 other states in 2006 to urge the Supreme Court to uphold strong federal clean water protections.
- Recent polling shows that 79% of Americans want Congress to let EPA implement the Rule.

For more information please visit www.protectcleanwater.org