

## Stop the Attack on the Clean Water Rule

### *Protect New York'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 in every 2 New York 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 New York'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.

### **Awosting Falls in Kerhonkson, NY**



Credit: Doug Kerr,

- **56% of New Yorkers** get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams that are protected by the Clean Water Rule.
- **Protections were restored to 5,730 miles of streams** that feed into New York'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 and wildlife and New York's vibrant recreational industry.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that in 2011, \$9.2 billion was spent on wildlife recreation in New York, including \$2 billion on fishing, and more than 5.5 million people participated in these recreational activities in New York.
- **New York's thriving brewing industry relies on clean water.** New York breweries contribute \$2.2 billion to our economy every year and support more than 20,800 jobs.

## **New York Clean Water Rule Supporters**

- **More than 68,400 New Yorkers, out of more than 800,000 Americans, support the rule.**
- Conservation, environmental, faith-based and union organizations, representing thousands of New Yorkers, support protections for drinking water.
- The City of New York and the New York Attorney General voiced support for the rule. New York State 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.
- Dozens of small businesses, including breweries, textile, and food companies, also support the rule.
- Recent polling shows that 79% of Americans want Congress to let EPA implement the Rule.

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