

Stop the Attack on the Clean Water Rule

Protect Rhode Island'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 Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island'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.



RI's iconic Pawcatuck River

- **54% of Rhode Islanders** get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams that are protected by the Clean Water Rule.
- **Protections were restored to 169 miles of streams** that feed into Rhode Island'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 Rhode Island's vibrant recreational industry.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that in 2011, \$360 million was spent on wildlife recreation in Rhode Island, including \$130 million on fishing alone, and more than 402,000 people participated in these recreational activities throughout the state.
- **Rhode Island's thriving brewing industry relies on clean water.** Small Rhode Island breweries contribute almost \$110 million to our economy every year and support almost 1,400 jobs.

Rhode Island Clean Water Rule Supporters

- **More than 5,300 Rhode Islanders, out of more than 800,000 Americans support the rule.**
- 48 organizations representing thousands of Rhode Islanders.
- The City of Providence and the Rhode Island Attorney General.
- RI 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 www.protectcleanwater.org