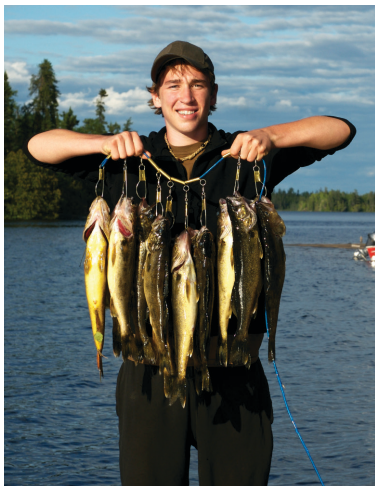
Rejecting the Dirty Water Rule: Businesses

The public responded to the Trump administration's proposal to radically redefine the Clean Water Act to strip protections from streams and wetlands with a resounding "No". The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) only provided 60 days for public comment, but more than 525,000 Americans demanded that the Administration dump this Dirty Water Rule. Comments came from across the country from a diverse range of constituents — state officials, community leaders and representatives from underserved communities, people of faith, scientists, wetland experts and mitigation professionals, environmental and conservation groups, tribal nations, hunters and anglers. They talked about personal and spiritual connections to water and the need to do more — not less — to protect these vital resources. They discussed the established science that EPA ignored in its proposal, and the shaky legal ground it was on. **The comments implored EPA to drop this proposal and begin to defend and enforce the laws that keep our water clean and safe.**

Business owners also weighed in. Businesses from brewers to anglers to outdoor recreation and tourism companies rely on ready access to clean water. These businesses power communities across the country, providing good paying jobs and supporting families. These businesses expect our government to protect our water, not make it more difficult to hold corporate polluters accountable for contaminating our water or destroying vital streams and wetlands.



Here is a snapshot of what businesses are saying about the Dirty Water Rule.

Outdoor Alliance, American Whitewater, the American Canoe Association, and Surfrider Foundation: "Stripping CWA protections for vital headwaters promises to threaten the downstream waters where our members recreate and support local economies. This result is antithetical to the CWA's original purpose, will erode the health of our members and society at large, and ignores the overwhelming scientific consensus. In other words, the Proposed Rule will cause harm, is illegal, and must be rejected."

First Lite LLC (hunting apparel brand from ID): "We vehemently oppose proposed changes that remove half of America's wetlands from the protection of the CWA. Both the jobs and passions of every one of our employees in endangered by these changes."

American Society of Landscape Architects: "A WOTUS definition should ensure healthy and safe drinking water, reduce adverse health consequences, bolster community reliance on tourism and recreation, and facilitate placemaking for coastal communities. This irresponsible rule change will undermine these goals....A WOTUS rule that does not rely upon accepted scientific facts, undermines the basic tenets of the CWA, and creates more confusion about the oversight of our waterways is certainly not the answer to creating an enforceable framework that will create and maintain safe, healthy bodies of water."

Montana Fishing Outfitters: "Clean water is good for business. Obviously, its good for my business. No client has ever asked me to take them fishing someplace where the water was polluted. But Montana has proven that clean water is good for all businesses. People come to Montana to visit or to live because of the quality of life we enjoy here. Part of that quality of life is about clean water the rivers and streams that flow through our communities."

Brewers for Clean Water: "We are depending on you not to roll back the safeguards established under the Clean Water Act. Protecting clean water is central to our long-term business success. Moreover, it is vital to the health and the economy of the communities where we live and work...We oppose your proposal to substantially limit the number of waterways receiving protection under the Clean Water Act. This rule would endanger critical wetlands and streams across the country — waterways that our craft breweries depend on to provide the clean water we use to brew our beer."

American Fisheries Society, Western Division: "The proposed revisions to the 2015 Clean Water Rule would cause substantial harm to local communities, place the West's wildlife and recreation-based economy at risk, and violate both the intent of the 2015 Rule and how it should be implemented."

Trout Unlimited: "The proposal would end protections for millions of miles of streams across the country — streams that contribute to the drinking water supplies of 117 million Americans and provide essential fish and wildlife habitat that support a robust outdoor recreation economy worth $887 billion."

Izaak Walton League: "Not only would this withdrawal of protection increase risks to public health and safety, but it would irreversibly harm hunting and angling across the country while devastating the outdoor recreation economy in many rural areas."

Patagonia Works: "The CWA is often referred to as our most effective environmental law because it protects these essential benefits our collective waters provide. The proposal puts our waters (and those of us who depend on them) at risk of greater pollution and destruction by narrowing the scope of the CWA, making it less predictable, inconsistent with the law and contrary to established science."

CLEAN WATER FOR ALL

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