

April 17, 2023

United States House  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Vote NO on the veto override of H.J. Res. 27, the Congressional Review Act joint resolution of disapproval of the Revised Definition of the “Waters of the United States”**

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our members and supporters, the undersigned organizations urge you to oppose the attempt to override President Biden’s veto of H.J. Res. 27, the Congressional Review Act (CRA) joint resolution of disapproval targeting the Revised Definition of the “Waters of the United States” rule (Clean Water Restoration Rule). This dangerous legislation would invalidate the Biden administration’s recently finalized regulation, which ensures protections for many of the waters that our families and communities value and depend on.

This Clean Water Restoration Rule ensures that critical waters- from small streams to rivers to wetlands- are protected from unregulated pollution and destruction when they have important downstream effects on water quality. The rule is a return to a familiar approach that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have used to identify waters that qualify as “waters of the United States” since President George W. Bush’s administration. It also resoundingly rejects the Trump-era approach, which unlawfully and unscientifically rolled back the Clean Water Act’s long standing protections and reinstates basic safeguards to ensure big polluters can be stopped from recklessly and indiscriminately bulldozing our wetlands and dumping waste into our streams. The Clean Water Restoration Rule is grounded in science, which demonstrates that the condition of waters often depends on water bodies upstream, and those upstream waters must be protected to safeguard the health of downstream communities and the environment. The rule will more effectively fulfill the purpose of the Clean Water Act: “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.”

By using the Congressional Review Act to attack the Clean Water Restoration Rule, H.J. Res. 27 is employing an incredibly blunt tool in a dangerous attempt to undermine the Clean Water Act itself. When a rule is undone using the CRA process, future administrations are prevented from issuing rules that are “substantially the same,” which could undermine future agency action to the benefit of polluters. Despite rhetoric that this bill is being promoted to provide certainty for businesses and other stakeholders, it would actually do the opposite. For instance, should H.J. Res. 27 become law, both protections and exemptions codified in the Clean Water Restoration Rule, including ones for the agriculture industry, could be called into question in future efforts designed to define “waters of the United States.” The only stakeholders who benefit from this attack on our clean water protections are big polluters who dump waste into our waterways and burden our families and communities with the health and environmental costs.

Again, we ask you to OPPOSE THE VETO OVERRIDE OF H.J. Res. 27, the CRA joint resolution disapproving of the Biden-Harris administration’s Revised Definition of the “Waters of the United States.” This harmful bill is simply a polluter-driven effort to undermine the Clean Water Act and the critical safeguards that it provides for our waters. Congress should be doing more, not less, to protect our waterways and to ensure that everyone, no matter their race, zip code, or income, has access to clean, safe water.

Sincerely,

350.org  
A Community Voice  
Alabama Rivers Alliance  
Alaska Community Action on Toxics  
Alliance for the Great Lakes

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
American Geophysical Union  
American Public Health Association  
American Rivers  
American Sustainable Business Network

Amigos Bravos  
Anthropocene Alliance  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
Asociación de Residentes de La Margaita, Inc  
Atchafalaya Basinkeeper  
Black Millennials 4 Flint  
Cahaba River Society  
California Environmental Voters  
Center for a Sustainable Coast  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Environmental Transformation  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Children's Environmental Health Network  
Clean Water Action  
Clean, Healthy, Educated, Safe & Sustainable  
Community, Inc.  
Coalition for Wetlands and Forests  
Committee on the Middle Fork Vermilion River  
Community In-Power and Development Association  
Inc. (CIDA Inc.)  
Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety  
Concerned Citizens of Cook County (Georgia)  
Conservation Alabama  
Earthjustice  
Endangered Habitats League  
Environment America  
Environment Maine  
Environment Michigan  
Environment Minnesota  
Environment Montana  
Environment Nevada  
Environment New Hampshire  
Environment New York  
Environment Ohio  
Environment Rhode Island  
Environment Texas  
Environmental Law & Policy Center  
Environmental Working Group  
Food & Water Watch  
For Love of Water (FLOW)  
FreshWater Accountability Project  
Freshwater Future  
Friends of Buckingham  
Friends of the Mississippi River  
Gila Resources Information Project  
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance  
Greater Neighborhood Alliance of Jersey City, NJ  
GreenLatinos  
Groundswell Charleston SC  
Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition  
Harpeth Conservancy  
Healthy Gulf

Hispanic Federation  
Idaho Rivers United  
Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited  
Kentucky Waterways Alliance  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Lake Erie Waterkeeper  
Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance  
Lawyers for Good Government (L4GG)  
League of Conservation Voters  
Lynn Canal Conservation  
Maine Conservation Voters  
Malach Consulting  
Michigan League of Conservation Voters  
Milton's Concerned Citizens  
Milwaukee Riverkeeper  
Mississippi River Collaborative  
Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper  
Montana Conservation Voters  
MS Communities United for Prosperity (MCUP)  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Heritage Institute  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
NC Conservation Network  
NC League of Conservation Voters  
New Mexico Climate Justice  
New Mexico Environmental Law Center  
New York League of Conservation Voters  
Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition  
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness  
Ohio Environmental Council  
Ohio River Foundation  
Our Children's Earth Foundation  
Park Watershed  
Patagonia Area Resource Alliance  
PES  
Rapid Creek Watershed Action  
Renewal of Life Trust  
River Network  
Save the Illinois River, Inc., STIR  
Serene Wildlife Sanctuary LLC  
Sierra Club  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
Surfrider Foundation  
The Clinch Coalition  
The Water Collaborative of Greater New Orleans  
Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership  
Virginia League of Conservation Voters  
Washington Conservation Action  
Waterkeepers Chesapeake  
Weequahic Park Association  
Winyah Rivers Alliance