



November 2, 2015

U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator:

The undersigned public health organizations urge you to oppose two pieces of harmful legislation: the resolution of disapproval to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corp's Clean Water Rule and S. 1140, the Federal Water Quality Protection Act. Both of these measures would seriously undermine the Clean Water Act and could not only impair the Clean Water Rule, but also our ability to protect clean water in the future. The public health community recognizes that clean water and healthy populations are inextricably linked and that polluted water can expose Americans to harmful contaminants in numerous ways. The public depends on water not only for basic survival, but for recreation, bathing, cleaning and cooking.

Despite advances in water management, waterborne illnesses still pose a serious threat to Americans' health. The U.S. EPA and Army Corps should be allowed to implement a rule that will improve water quality and protect the health of America's families and children. The United States annually experiences a significant number of waterborne illnesses. In fact, each year around 30 outbreaks and 1,000 reported drinking water-related cases and around 24 outbreaks and 1,300 recreational water-related cases occur.

The Clean Water Act was designed to keep pollution, including carcinogens, nutrient runoff, sewage and oil, out of the nation's water. The EPA and Army Corp's rule seeks to clarify the protection of streams and wetlands under the Clean Water Act, including streams that provide some portion of water to drinking water systems that serve nearly 117 million people. The rule, which is based on peer reviewed science, clarifies which waters are protected and which are not, allowing EPA and the Army Corps to best protect water quality and public health. Unfortunately, these two bills would block their efforts and prevent them from implementing the law and protecting water quality for millions of Americans.

Clean water is one of our greatest necessities and a cornerstone of public health. EPA and the Army Corps should be allowed to better protect public health from water pollution through this important science-based rule.

Sincerely,

American Public Health Association  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Trust for America's Health