

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

November 24, 2014

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

As you prepare a fiscal year 2015 spending bill, we ask that you ensure no funding made available under that bill can be used to change the definition of waters under the jurisdiction of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251, et seq.).

On March 25, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), issued a draft rule to amend the Clean Water Act (CWA) redefining "waters of the United States" giving EPA and USACE expanded authority over regulated bodies of water, and, in some cases, private property. Additionally, EPA introduced a "connectivity report," claiming that all bodies of water, no matter the size, could be connected. This report is in direct contradiction of the Supreme Court decision which clearly upholds the policy that isolated wetlands could not be considered "waters of the United States" for purposes under the CWA.

It is our understanding that under the proposed guidelines, there will be an expansion of EPA's and USACE's authority from regulating rivers, estuaries, lakes, and wetlands to regulating farm ponds, storm drains, and other non-navigable water bodies. These regulatory changes will have wide ranging effects on everything from construction to agriculture.

Earlier this year the House passed H.R. 4923, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2015, by a vote of 253-170 and received broad bipartisan support. Section 106 of the bill prohibited any funds from being used to "develop, adopt, implement, administer, or enforce any change" to the definition of waters under the CWA. Therefore, we respectfully request the same language be included in any fiscal year 2015 spending measure or any Continuing Resolution the House may consider.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



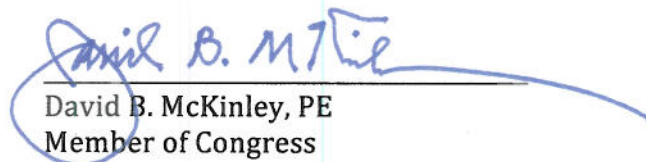
Ted S Yoho, DVM  
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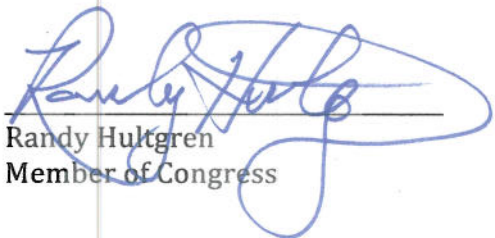
Collin C. Peterson  
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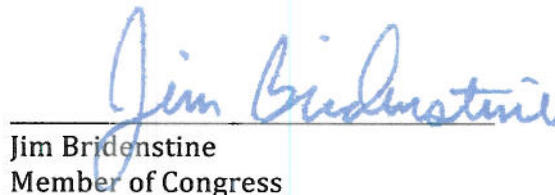
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Randy Hultgren  
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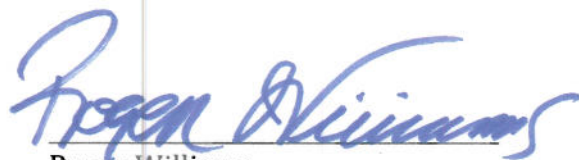
Jim Bridenstine  
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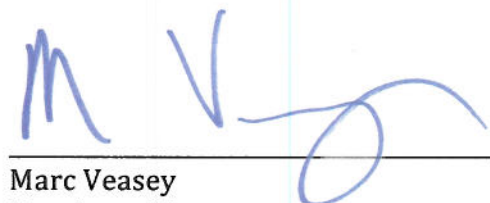
Ed Whitfield  
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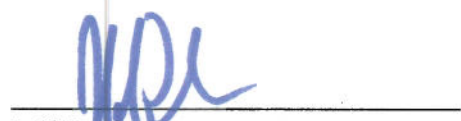
Trent Franks  
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Roger Williams  
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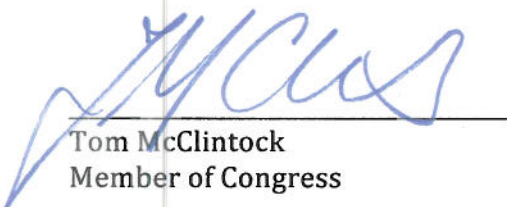
Marc Veasey  
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Jeff Denham  
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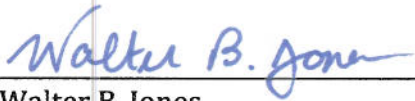
Randy Neugebauer  
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Bradley Byrne  
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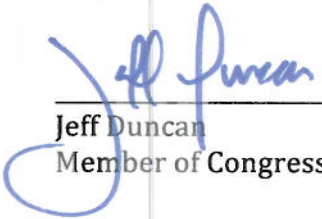
Steve Southerland  
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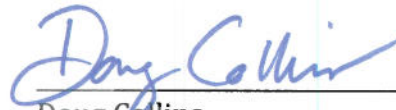
Walter B. Jones  
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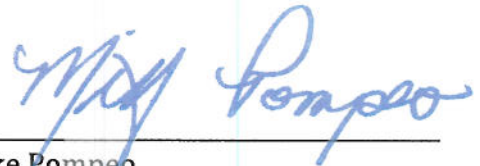
Steve Stockman  
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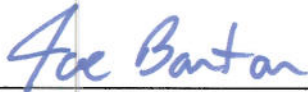
David Schweikert  
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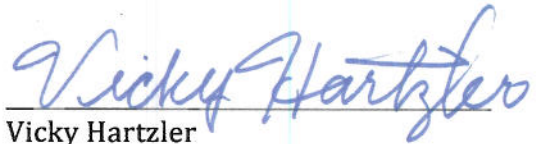
Chris Collins  
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Mike Pompeo  
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Vicky Hartzler  
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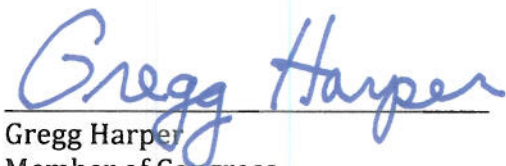
Doug LaMalfa  
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Kevin Cramer  
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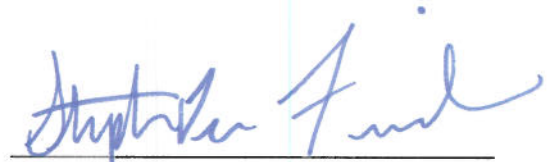


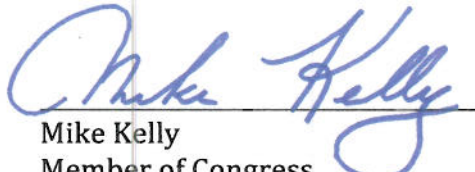
Louie Gohmert  
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Gregg Harper  
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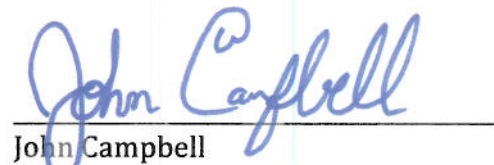
  
Kristi Noem  
Member of Congress

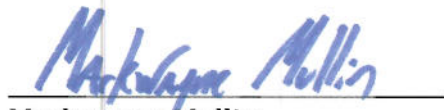
  
Stephen Fincher  
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Mike Kelly  
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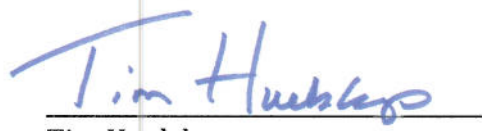
  
Joe Wilson  
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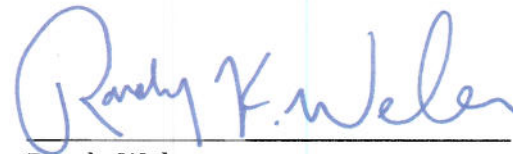
  
Scott DesJarlais  
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John Campbell  
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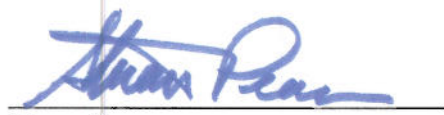
  
Todd Rokita  
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Tim Huelskamp  
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Randy Weber  
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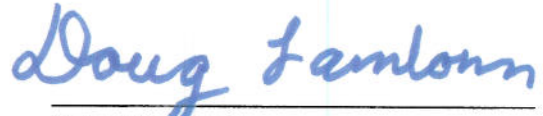
  
Rob Bishop  
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Steve Pearce  
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Pete Olson  
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Ron DeSantis  
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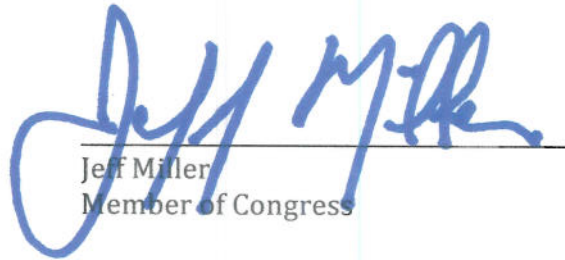
Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress



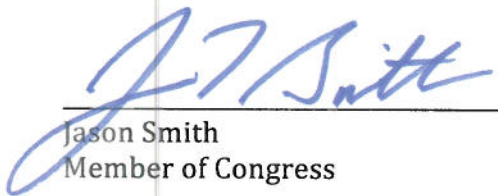
Thomas Massie  
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Mo Brooks  
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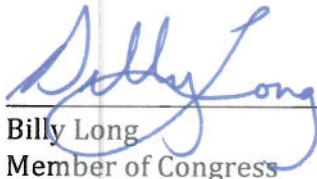
Jeff Miller  
Member of Congress



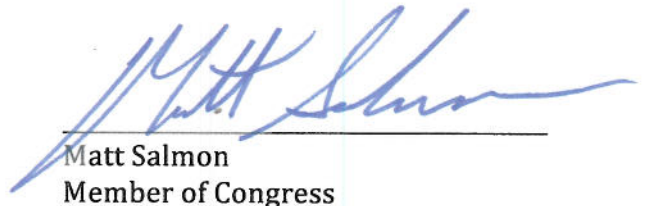
Jason Smith  
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Blaine Luetkemeyer  
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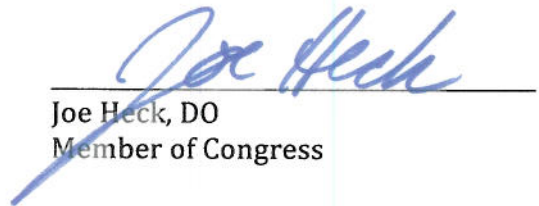
Billy Long  
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Matt Salmon  
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Lou Barletta  
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Joe Heck, DO  
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Mick Mulvaney  
Member of Congress



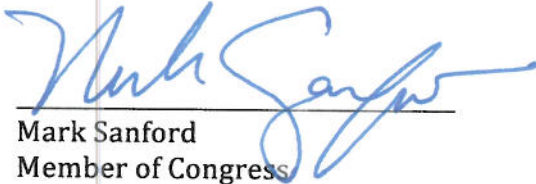
Bill Flores  
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Marlin Stutzman  
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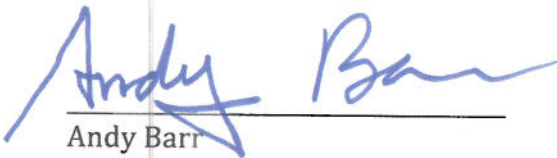
Dan Benishek  
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Mark Sanford  
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Steve King  
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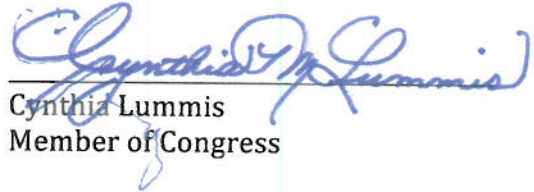
Andy Barr  
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Sam Johnson  
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Steve Chabot  
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Cynthia Lummis  
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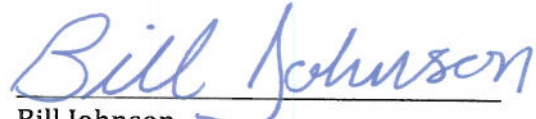
Joseph R. Pitts  
Member of Congress



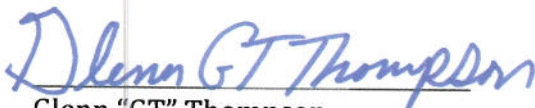
Scott Tipton  
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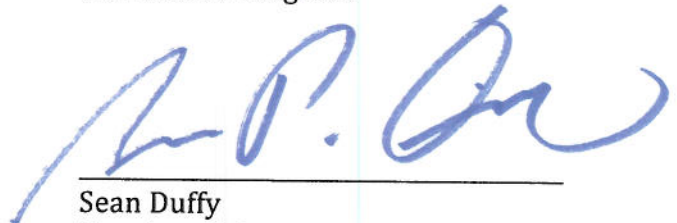
Aaron Schock  
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Bill Johnson  
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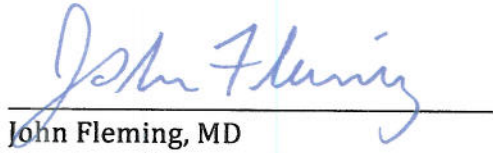
Glenn "GT" Thompson  
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Sean Duffy  
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Paul Cook  
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John Fleming, MD  
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Don Young  
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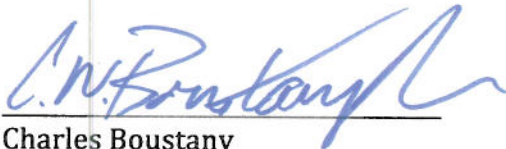
Bill Cassidy  
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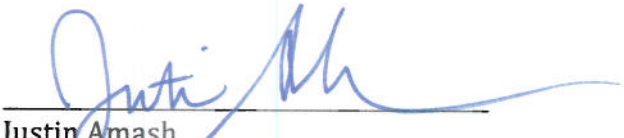
Tom Rice  
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers  
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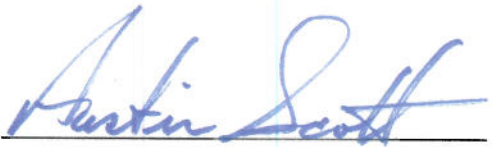
Charles Boustany  
Member of Congress



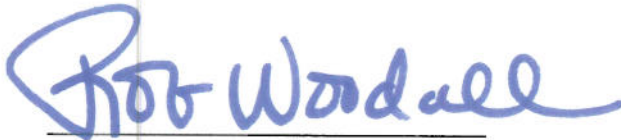
Justin Amash  
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Lynn Jenkins  
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Austin Scott  
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Rob Woodall  
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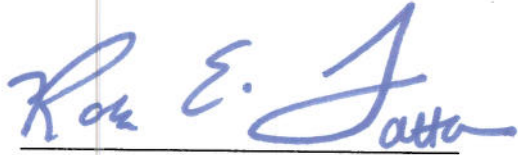
Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress



Steven Palazzo  
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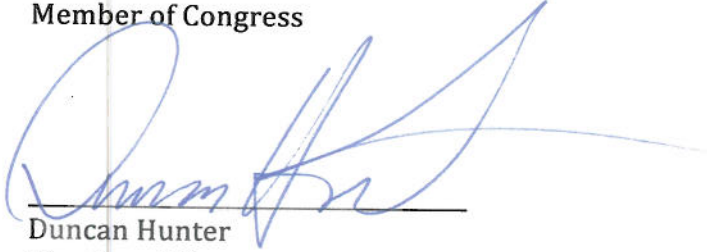
K. Michael Conaway  
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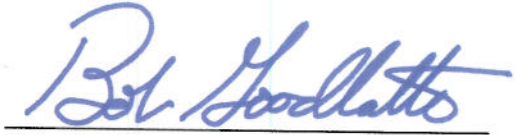
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