

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.

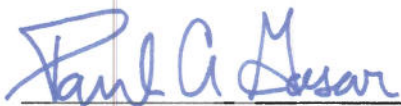
Sincerely,



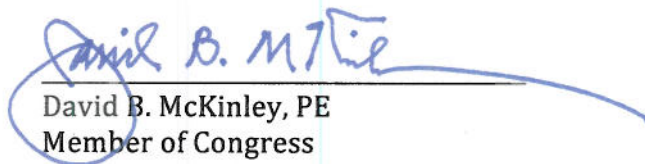
Ted S Yoho, DVM
Member of Congress




Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



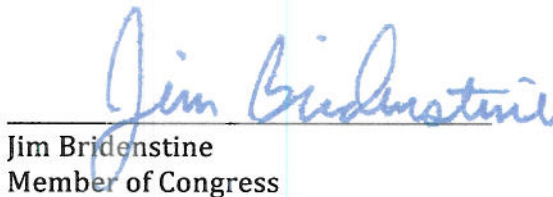
Paul A. Gosar, DDS
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, PE
Member of Congress



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



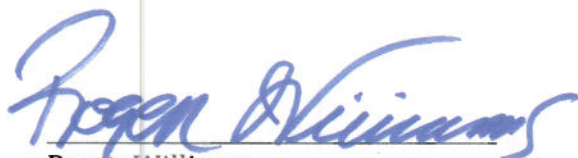
Jim Bridenstine
Member of Congress



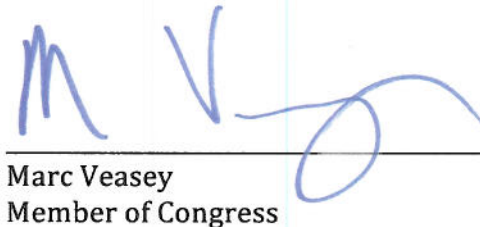
Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress



Roger Williams
Member of Congress



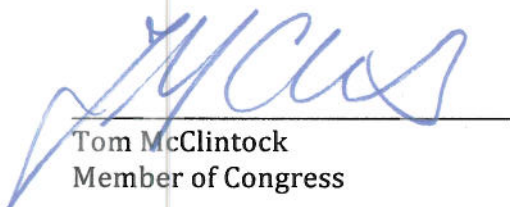
Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



Jeff Denham
Member of Congress



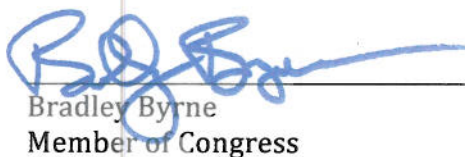
Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



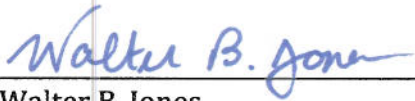
Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



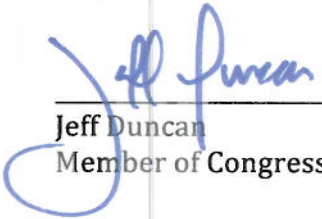
Steve Southerland
Member of Congress



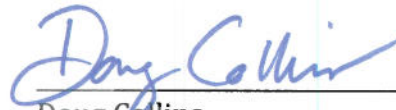
Walter B. Jones
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James Lankford
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Jeff Duncan
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Doug Collins
Member of Congress



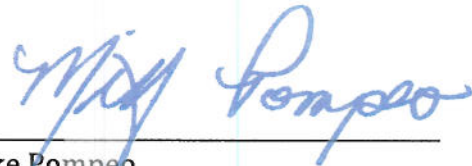
Steve Stockman
Member of Congress



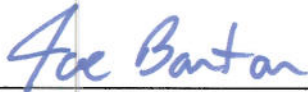
David Schweikert
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Chris Collins
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Mike Pompeo
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Joe Barton
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Vicky Hartzler
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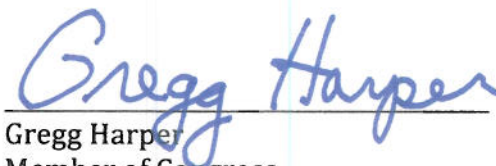
Doug LaMalfa
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Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress

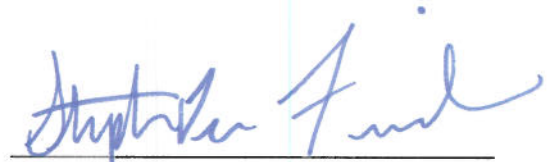


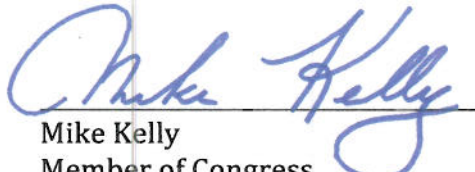
Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Gregg Harper
Member of Congress

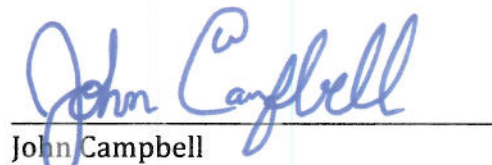

Kristi Noem
Member of Congress

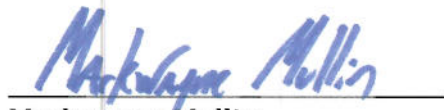

Stephen Fincher
Member of Congress


Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

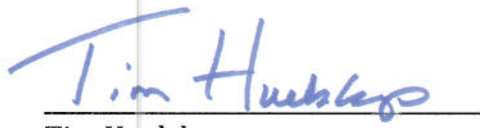

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

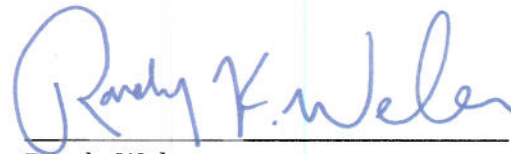

Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress



John Campbell
Member of Congress


Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress

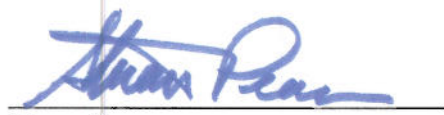

Todd Rokita
Member of Congress


Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress


Randy Weber
Member of Congress


Phil Roe
Member of Congress

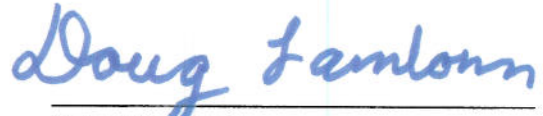

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress


Steve Pearce
Member of Congress

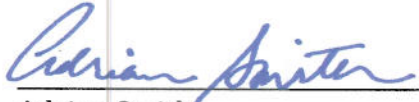

Pete Olson
Member of Congress



Ron DeSantis
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



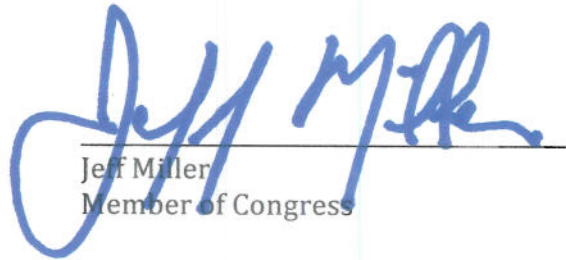
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



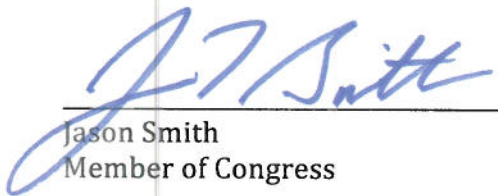
Thomas Massie
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



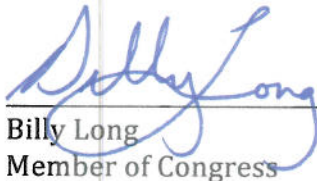
Jeff Miller
Member of Congress



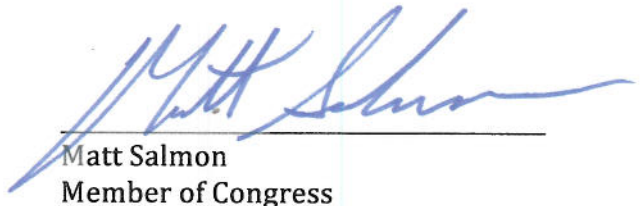
Jason Smith
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



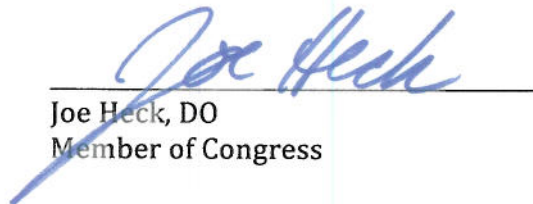
Billy Long
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Joe Heck, DO
Member of Congress




Mick Mulvaney
Member of Congress



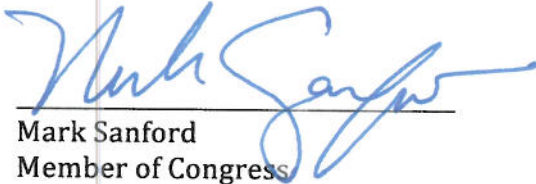
Bill Flores
Member of Congress



Marlin Stutzman
Member of Congress



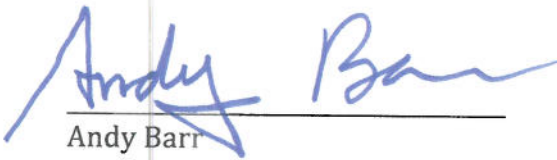
Dan Benishek
Member of Congress



Mark Sanford
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



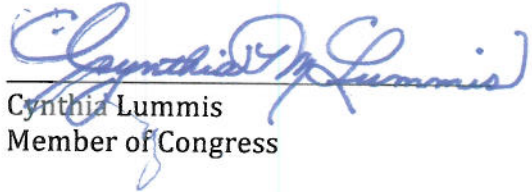
Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Sam Johnson
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress




Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress



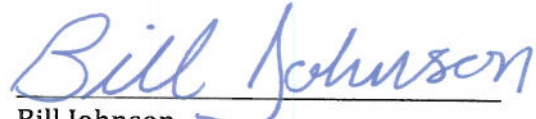
Joseph R. Pitts
Member of Congress



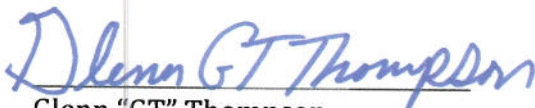
Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



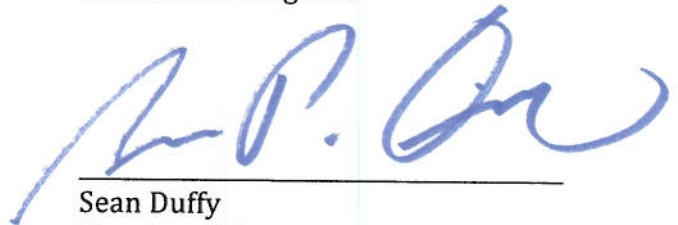
Aaron Schock
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



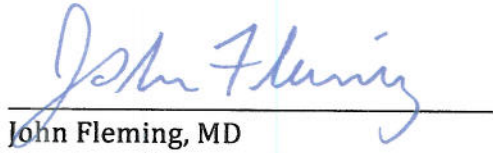
Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



Sean Duffy
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



John Fleming, MD
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



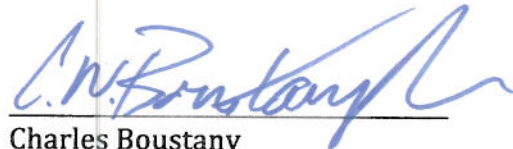
Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress



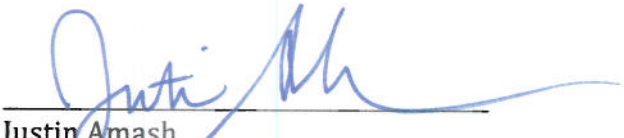
Tom Rice
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



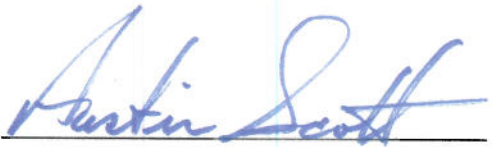
Charles Boustany
Member of Congress



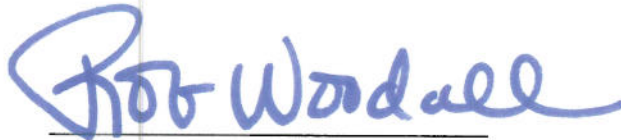
Justin Amash
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



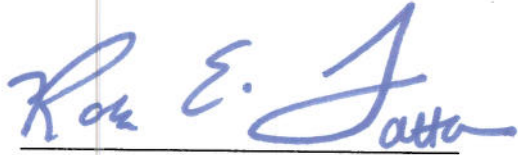
Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress



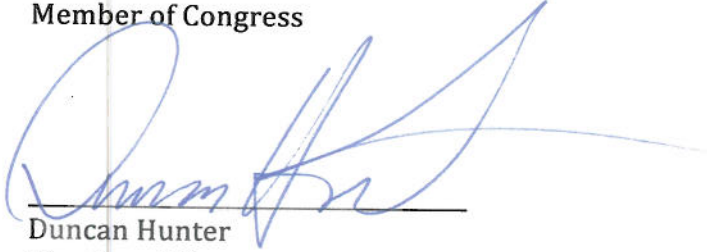
K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress



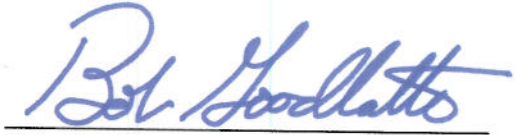
Robert Latta
Member of Congress



Steve Daines
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress