



City of Ann Arbor
City Administrator's Office
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February 5, 2019

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell
Senator Debbie Stabenow
Senator Gary Peters

RE: City of Ann Arbor Resolution R-19-060 in Support for a Strong Clean Water Rule

Dear Elected Officials,

The Ann Arbor City Council approved a **Resolution in Support for a Strong Clean Water Act and Strong Clean Water Rule** at its February 4, 2019 meeting. Attached is a copy for your reference.

This resolution reaffirms the City of Ann Arbor's support for a strong Clean Water Act and a wider definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS), as defined in the 2015 Clean Water Rule.

The Clean Water Act has been an instrumental tool in safeguarding our nation's lakes, rivers, wetlands, and waterways against pollution and contamination, ensuring our nation has healthy, fishable, and swimmable waters. At the core of the Clean Water Act is the definition used to outline what is considered "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS), which are waterways which must adhere to the pollution prevention, control, and clean-up regulation and programs outlined through the Clean Water Act.

For years there had been ambiguity in what was included in the WOTUS definition. In 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a new rule clarifying that WOTUS include headwater, ephemeral, and intermittent streams and wetlands. We know that such streams and wetlands affect the quantity and quality of water, including in Ann Arbor where a significant portion of our drinking water comes from sources such as these. Moreover, these streams and wetlands protect against floods, filter pollutants, provide habitat, and provide an array of other extraordinary value.

Unfortunately, the U.S. EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have proposed revisions to the definition of WOTUS which would radically restrict what waters are included, including rolling back protections for streams and wetlands without specified surface water connections to other waterways, certain ponds, interstate waters, and more. EPA's own study found that at

least 18% of streams and roughly half of all the nation's wetlands would lose protection under this proposed rollback, including many in Michigan.

This City of Ann Arbor does not support these proposed rollbacks to the WOTUS and asks for your support in advocating from a strong Clean Water Act, Clean Water Rule, and definition of WOTUS.

Sincerely,



Howard S. Lazarus
City Administrator

cc: Governmental Consultant Services, Inc.
Michigan Municipal League
J Beaudry, City Clerk
S Postema, City Attorney
M Rechten, Senior Assistant City Attorney
M Stults, Sustainability and Innovations Manager