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April 2, 2014

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur,

As you begin work on the fiscal year 2015 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, I urge you to include language preventing the EPA and the Corps of Engineers from using funds appropriated to issue new rules regarding the Clean Water Act Definition of "Waters of the U.S."

On March 25, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released a proposed rule that would assert CWA jurisdiction over nearly all areas with any hydrologic connection to downstream navigable waters, including man-made conveyances such as ditches.

The regulatory compliance costs associated with such an expansion of jurisdiction are nebulous and unfathomable. Regulation of our nation's waters must be done in a manner that responsibly protects the environment without an unnecessary and costly expansion of the federal government – in order to prevent more unreasonable and burdensome regulations.

Sincerely,



Jason Smith
MEMBER OF CONGRESS