



**CHILDREN'S
ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH
NETWORK**



September 26, 2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0203

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

The undersigned public health organizations join in opposition to the proposed rule to repeal the Clean Water Rule issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2015. Repeal of this important rule will impair our ability to protect clean water in the future and negatively impact the health of Americans.

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. EPA and the Army Corps should implement the rule as currently written to improve water quality and protect the health of America's families and children.

The Clean Water Act was designed to keep pollution, including carcinogens, nutrient runoff, sewage and oil, out of the nation's water supply. The 2015 final rule clarifies this legal 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 current 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. Repealing the rule would block the agencies from ensuring the protection of 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 maintain this important rule to better protect public health from water pollution.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposal. Should you have any questions regarding these comments, you are encouraged to contact Don Hoppert (202-777-2514, donald.hoppert@apha.org), director of government relations at the American Public Health

Association or Jack Rayburn (202-223-9870, jrayburn@tfah.org) senior government relations manager at Trust for America's Health.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Public Health Association
Children's Environmental Health Network

National Environmental Health Association
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Trust for America's Health