RICHARD F. COLBURN
*37th Legislative District*
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,
and Wicomico Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee

Public Safety, Transportation,
and Environment Subcommittee

Executive Nominations Committee

Rules Committee

*Joint Committees*
Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review

Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal
Bays Critical Area

*Chair*
Eastern Shore Senate Delegation

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO OFFICE INDICATED

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July 8, 2014

Water Docket
Environmental Protection Agency
Mail Code 2822T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Attention: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0880

Re: Opposition to definition of "Waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed EPA regulation regarding the definition of "Waters of the United States" and the EPA's use of the Clean Water Act to control land along ditches, gullies and other ephemeral areas by claiming the sources are part of the navigable waterways.

I represent a District consisting of many streams, creeks and rivers that would now be under EPA control should these regulations be approved. These regulations would force the property owners I represent to be subject to rules and regulations that should not be governed by any federal agency.

The Clean Water Act has never defined ditches and other upland features as "Waters of the United States." I believe this is an unnecessary expansion of federal jurisdiction without the approval of Congress.

Finally, expanding the definition of the "Waters of the United States" will increase the costs and burdens on businesses, farmers and property owners and local governments. I fully believe the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers are ignoring the jurisdictional limits set by the Supreme Court in order to justify the expansion of control.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments on this proposed regulation.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Colburn

CC: The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
The Honorable Andy Harris
Caroline County Farm Bureau
Dorchester County Farm Bureau
Talbot County Farm Bureau
Wicomico County Farm Bureau
Caroline County Commissioners
Dorchester County Council
Talbot County Council
Wicomico County Council
Wicomico County Executive
Municipalities of the 37th District