

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis \* Conservation Minnesota \* Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund of Minnesota \* CURE  
\* Environment Minnesota \* Friends of the Boundary Waters \* Friends of the Cloquet Valley State Forest \* Friends of the Mississippi River \*  
Izaak Walton League of America- Bush Lake Chapter \* Izaak Walton League of America- Minnesota Division \* Izaak Walton League of  
America- Prairie Woods Chapter \* Land Stewardship Project \* League of Women Voters \* Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
\* Minnesota Citizens for the Protection of Migratory Birds \* Minnesota Conservation Federation \* Minnesota Environmental Partnership  
\* Minnesota Trout Unlimited \* National Parks Conservation Association \* National Wildlife Federation \* Save Our Sky Blue Waters \* Sierra  
Club North Star Chapter \* Water Legacy \* Wild River Audubon Society \* Women Observing Wildlife

June 18, 2015

The Honorable Al Franken  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: EPA's Clean Water Rule

Dear Senator Franken,

**On behalf of the 25 undersigned organizations representing agricultural, environmental, conservation and civic groups from across Minnesota, we write to express our gratitude for your firm opposition to polluters' latest attempt to derail the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) newly approved Clean Water Rule. The so-called Barasso bill (S.1140) would strip the EPA of its ability to use best-available peer-reviewed science to restore federal protection over thousands of waterways in Minnesota and across the nation. We are also writing to ask for your continued support of the Clean Water Rule on behalf of the 1 in 6 Minnesotans whose drinking water sources would be better protected.**

The Clean Water Rule finalized in May is supported by over 1,200 peer-reviewed studies and the EPA's Science Advisory Board, a public advisory group that provides balanced, expert assessment of scientific matters to the EPA. The rigorous legal and scientific background that went into the development of the rule ensured that the final result represents a balanced approach to the protection of our Nation's waters. The agencies also engaged in a very transparent public review process. Over 800,000 members of the public commented in support of the new Clean Water Rule protections, representing over 80% of the comments received by the EPA.

What does this rule mean for Minnesota? The rule restores protections to more than half of our streams, including those that feed our iconic waters - like the Mississippi, Red River and Lake Superior - and help provide drinking water to nearly 1 million Minnesotans. It also clarifies protection of wetlands that are adjacent to navigable waters. And in an important step to protect our state's at-risk prairie pothole wetlands (wetlands that provide vital habitat for birds and significant water quality services), the rule would allow for their protection based on an analysis whether they significantly impact downstream water conditions in the watersheds in which they're located.

For all these reasons, supporters of the Clean Water Rule here in Minnesota include small businesses, local elected officials, conservation and sportsmen's organizations.

While we deeply appreciate your clear opposition to S.1140 "in its current form," we know that allies of polluting industries are formulating several other measures to block the Clean Water Rule in Congress this summer. **We urge you to publicly reject any further efforts in Congress to**

weaken, delay, or otherwise derail the Clean Water Rule. Only such a courageous stand by leaders like you will bring Congress back to the business of protecting our waters, rather than assaulting them.

Sincerely,

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

League of Women Voters

Conservation Minnesota

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund of Minnesota

Minnesota Citizens for the Protection of Migratory Birds

CURE (Clean Up the River Environment)

Minnesota Conservation Federation

Environment Minnesota

Minnesota Environmental Partnership

Friends of the Boundary Waters

Minnesota Trout Unlimited

Friends of the Cloquet Valley State Forest

National Parks Conservation Association

Friends of the Mississippi River

National Wildlife Federation

Izaak Walton League of America- Bush Lake Chapter

Save Our Sky Blue Waters

Sierra Club North Star Chapter

Izaak Walton League of America- Minnesota Division

Water Legacy

Izaak Walton League of America- Prairie Woods Chapter

Wild River Audubon Society

Land Stewardship Project

Women Observing Wildlife