



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MICHIGAN

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

August 15, 2014

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

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

The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports the Army Corps and Environmental Protection Agency's rulemaking recommendations to define the waters of the United States. This will provide clarity for the regulatory community and is consistent with the intent of the Clean Water Act as interpreted by the Supreme Court.

League of Women Voters members were active in the passage of the Clean Water Act in the 1970's. We worked to protect, expand and strengthen it through the 1990's. Our Michigan membership belongs to two multi-state basin League groups representing Lake Erie and Lake Michigan. We have studied the issues and work with our communities to educate and advocate for the protection of our water quality, public health and environment. Our organization position states that "water resource policies should reflect the interrelationships of water quality, water quantity, ground water and surface water". We support policies "to achieve water quality essential for maintaining species populations and diversity, including measures to protect lakes, estuaries, wetlands and in-stream flows". Further, we support "stringent controls to protect the quality of current and potential drinking water supplies including protection of watersheds for surface supplies and recharge areas for groundwater".

Our statement today is consistent with our comments from 2003. "The Clean Water Act covers all waters, whether large or small, they function as an interconnected system. Excision of parts of the system from regulation will impair health and optimal functioning of the whole."

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rules for the Clean Water Act. The League of Women Voters of Michigan supports these science-based decisions.

Sincerely,

Susan K Smith

Susan Smith, President
League of Women Voters of Michigan