

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

January 12, 2012

Dear Mr. President:

As elected officials across Colorado, we write you to urge you to finalize your proposed guidelines and conduct a rulemaking to restore critical Clean Water Act protections to Colorado's waterways and waters nationwide.

As elected officials, we know how critically important clean water is to the health and economic livelihood of people across our state. Our constituents need clean water for drinking water, fishing, swimming, agriculture, recreation, and the wellbeing of their communities. They depend on the tributaries and wetlands that feed into waterways like the Colorado River. Our waterways are part of what make Colorado beautiful, thriving, and prosperous. Stewardship and strong protections for our water resources are integral parts of our citizens' health and economic vitality.

But our waters' health is in crisis. Beginning in 1972, the Clean Water Act protected all of the nation's waters, from small, unnamed streams to the cherished Chesapeake Bay. But now, because of two bitterly-divided Supreme Court decisions (SWANCC in 2001 and Rapanos in 2006), legal uncertainty threatens countless critical resources with unregulated pollution, including headwater streams, lakes, tributaries, and wetlands that feed into and filter the river.

The threat is enormous. Here in Colorado, according to EPA data, the drinking water of 3.7 million Coloradans may no longer be protected because they are seasonal. Similarly, 62% of streams in Colorado could lose protection because they are headwater streams and no other streams flow into them.

To protect our cherished waters like the Colorado River, we urge you to finalize your proposed guidelines and move forward with a rulemaking to restore critical protections to these waters under the Clean Water Act and reaffirm the broad scope of the Clean Water Act that existed for more than three decades. We believe, by restoring the Clean Water Act, you can put us back on track to becoming a country where all our waters are safe for swimming, fishing, and drinking.

We appreciate your commitment to protecting Colorado's waterways, and we hope you will move quickly to ensure they are protected for years to come.

Sincerely,

Bob Gaiser
City Council Member, Ward 1
City of Broomfield

Bob Fifer
Councilmember At-Large

City of Arvada
Rachel Zenzinger
Mayor Pro Tem and Councilmember, District 1
City of Arvada

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City Council Member, Ward II
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Deputy Mayor
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City Council Member
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City Council Member
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City Council Member
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City of Denver

Peggy Lehman
City Council Member, District 4, Council President Pro Tem
City of Denver

Chris Nevitt
City Council Member, District 7, Council President
City of Denver

Albus Brooks

City Council Member, District 8
City of Denver
Judy H. Montero
City Council Member, District 9
City of Denver

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City Council Member, at large
City of Denver

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City Council Member, District 1
City of Denver

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Mayor Pro Tem, At Large
City of Englewood

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Mayor Pro Tem, District 5
City of Fort Collins

Gerry Horak
Councilmember, District 6
City of Fort Collins

Marjorie Sloan
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Bennett Boeschstein
City Council Member, District C
City of Grand Junction

Laura Luke
City Council Member, District D
City of Grand Junction

Tom Quinn

City Council Member, Ward 5
City of Lakewood
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City Council Member, at large
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Colorado State Senator, Senate District 14
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