

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

January 12, 2012

Dear Mr. President:

As recreational businesses in Colorado, we write you to urge you to restore critical Clean Water Act protections to Colorado's waterways and waters nationwide by finalizing guidelines and proposing a permanent standard.

Our waterways are part of what make Colorado beautiful, thriving, and prosperous. The people of Colorado need clean water for drinking water, fishing, swimming, agriculture, recreation, and we depend on the tributaries and wetlands that feed into waterways like the Colorado River.

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 Colorado River. 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 the streams that feed it 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 move forward with final guidelines and a permanent standard 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,

4 Corners Whitewater
Acquired Tastes Rafting
adventure bound incorporated
Angler's Covey
Arkansas River Tours
Arkansas Valley Adventures
Bennett's Inc.

Black Canyon Anglers
Blazing Adventures
Blue Quill Angler
Breckenridge Adventure Tours
Centennial Canoe Outfitters
Christy Sports
Clear Creek Outdoors
Colorado Skies Outfitters
Colorado Wilderness Rides and Guides
Confluence Kayaks
Crystal Fly Shop
Cutthroat Anglers
Dvorak Expeditions
Feisty Fins Outfitters
Fly Fishing Outfitters
Front Range Anglers
GEO Tours Whitewater Raft Trips
Ghillies Fly Shop
Hatch Fly Shop
Hog Island Boat Works
Holiday River Expeditions
Independent Whitewater
Mountain Waters Rafting & Adventure Company LLC
Raft Masters
Ripboard
Roaring Fork Anglers
Royal Gorge Rafting & Zipline Tours
San Juan Angler
Small World Adventures
St. Peter's Fly Shop
Toad's Guide Shop
White Water Adventure Outfitters
Wolf Creek Anglers