

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

January 12, 2012

Dear Mr. President:

As Virginia farmers, we write you to urge you to propose a rulemaking to restore critical Clean Water Act protections to Virginia's waterways and waters nationwide.

As farmers, we need clean water for our livelihood. Across Virginia, farmers depend on clean water for crops, livestock, drinking water, and wellbeing of our families. We have a close relationship with the tributaries and wetlands that feed into iconic waterways like the Chesapeake Bay, and stewardship of Virginia's water resources is integral to our economic success.

The Chesapeake Bay is a hallmark of Virginia and provides our state with water for agriculture and livestock, drinking water, and some of the best fishing in the southeast. But the health of waters that feed the Bay is in crisis.

Beginning in 1972, the Clean Water Act protected all of the nation's waters, from small, unnamed streams to the 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.

The threat is enormous. Here in Virginia, according to EPA data, the drinking water of 2.3 million Virginians may no longer be protected because they are seasonal. Similarly, 57% of streams in Virginia could lose protection because they are headwater streams and no other streams flow into them.

To protect our cherished waters like the Chesapeake Bay, we urge you to 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, that your administration can put us back on track to becoming a country where all farmers can depend on clean water for their crops and livestock, and all Americans will have access to water that is safe for swimming, fishing, and drinking.

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

Sincerely,

Kathy Mullins
A Better Way, LLC

Anne Geyer
Agriberry

Amy Hicks
Amy's Garden

Marilyn Danner
Apple Berry Manor

Lorinda Palin
Avalon Acres

Jamie Barrett
Bellair Farm

Robert Schreiber
Bell's Lane Farm

Bob and Kristy Pingry
Big Catalpa Farm

Becky & Lawrence Latane
Blenheim Organic Gardens

Alexander & Mary Ross Fisher
Brookview Farm

Ann Mallek
Currituck Farm

John W. Dansby
Dansby Strawberry Farm

Charlie Maloney
Dayspring Farm

Jeannie & Roy Flanagan
Flanagan Farms

Joel Slezak & Erica Hellen
Free Union Grass Farm

Marlin Burkholder
Glen Eco Farm

Neva J. Whetzel
Golden Angels Apiary

Barry & Connie Leigh
Hall Town Produce Farm

Stephanie Ripchick
Holly Fork Produce & More, LLC.

Krister Swartz & Miranda Ottewell
Home Farm

Jenny Driver
JMD Farm

Cynthia Wilson
Lovers Retreat Farm & Dairy

Stephanie Meyers & Mark Lieberth
New Branch Farm

John Wilson
New Earth Farm

Melody Jeffrey
Nimmo Community Garden

Catherine Cochran
Oak Hill Farm Devons

Michele Mattioli
Open Gate Farm

Tom Olivier
Poplar Branch Farm

Daniel King

Quiet Acres Farm

Lee O'Neill

Radical Roots Farm

Mark Jones & Angel Shockley

Sharondale Farm

Angus Murdoch & Kristen Parker

Shepherds' Barn

Marissa Holmes

Sweet Peeps Farm

Terry Ingram

Threlkeld Farm

Sara Davis Miller

Timbercreek Organics

Monica Medina

Valle Produce

Julie Haushalter

White Oak Lavender Farm

Scott Wigginton

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