

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

16 December 2013

Dear Mr. President:

As farmers from across the country, we write to you to urge you to quickly move forward with a rule to restore critical Clean Water Act protections to waterways nationwide.

From cattle-ranchers to blueberry farmers, we all know how critically important clean water is to our livelihoods and the vitality of our communities. Across the country, farmers depend on clean water for crops, livestock, drinking water, and the wellbeing of our families. We have a close relationship with the tributaries and wetlands that feed into our iconic waterways and stewardship of America's water resources is integral to our economic success.

Beginning in 1972, the Clean Water Act protected all of the nation's waters, from small, unnamed streams to our greatest waterways coast to coast. But now, because of two bitterly divided Supreme Court decisions (SWANCC in 2001 and Rapanos in 2006) and Bush administration policies stemming from these decisions, uncertainty threatens countless critical resources with unregulated pollution, including headwater streams, lakes, tributaries, and wetlands.

The threat is enormous. According to EPA data, the drinking water sources of 117 million Americans may no longer be protected because the streams that feed these sources are seasonal or intermittent. Similarly, our major waterways are only as clean as the streams and wetlands that feed into them, and more than half our country's streams are now inadequately protected from pollution.

Another major concern for farmers is that of wetland conservation. Wetlands are crucial to lessen the severity of flooding. An acre of wetlands can typically hold at least 1 million gallons of flood water. Over the last few years, severe floods have struck farmers and rural communities across the heartland and in New England, devastating crops and families' homes. These floods could become more severe unless our wetlands are clearly protected by the Clean Water Act.

To protect our cherished waters, we urge you to move forward with a rulemaking to restore critical protections to these waters under the Clean Water Act and reaffirm the 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 be 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 America's waterways, and we hope you will move quickly to ensure they are protected for years to come.

Sincerely,

**Florida**

Mary Ann Stein  
Brooksville Ridge Blueberries  
Brooksville, FL

Richard Hann  
Heart of Christmas Farms  
Christmas, FL

Michael Bewtmann  
St. Pete Orchid Farm  
St. Petersburg, FL

Jonathan Morris  
Morris Family Farms  
Winter Garden, FL

**Georgia**

Anna Altfeder  
Phuny Farm  
Alpharetta, GA

Steve and Mandy O'Shea  
3 Porch Farm Inc.  
Athens, GA

Terry Salguero  
Healing Path Farm  
Athens, GA

Justin Aiello  
Skylight Farm  
Atlanta, GA

Erin Cescutti  
Brightside Farm  
Atlanta, GA

Mario Cambardella  
Urban Agriculture Inc.  
Atlanta, GA

Alison and Alphonzo Cross  
The Boxcar Grocer  
Atlanta, GA

Loretta Adderson  
Adderson's Fresh Produce  
Augusta, GA

Edward Mitchell  
Honeywood Farms  
Barnesville, GA

Cary Thornton  
Mud Fairy Farm  
Berkeley Lake, GA

Jim Hudson  
Hudson Red Angus  
Broxton, GA

Paige Witherington  
Serenbe Farms  
Chattahoochee Hills, GA

Susan Galyon  
Creekridge Farms  
Chickamauga, GA

Gorge Alons  
Mountain Earth  
Clarksville, GA

Terri Jagger Blincoe  
Ladybug Farms  
Clayton, GA

Demetri Hubbard  
Atlantis Hydroponics, Inc  
College Park, GA

Kelly Campbell  
Abel Harvest Farm  
Covington, GA

Debbie Brock  
Grandma Brock's Country Farm  
Danielsville, GA

Celia Barss  
Woodland Gardens  
Decatur, GA

Bobby Britt  
BesMaid Garden  
Decatur, GA

Toni R. Hill  
Omari's Produce  
Decatur, GA

Joseph Reynolds  
Love is Love Farm at Gaia Gardens  
Douglasville, GA

Cathy R. Payne  
Broad River Pastures  
Elberton, GA

Clay Brady  
Foster-Brady Farm  
Monroe, GA

Nicolas Donck  
Crystal Organic Farm  
Newborn, GA

Michelle Hammond  
Sugar Tree Farm  
Norcross, GA

Janisse Ray  
Read Earth Farm  
Reidsville, GA

Cynthia Crook  
Cimino Farm  
Reynolds, GA

Naomi Davis  
Digging Roots Educational Farm, Inc.  
Roberta, GA

Melinda Walker  
Walker Farms  
Savannah, GA

Jim Fraser  
Elm Street Gardens  
Sparta, GA

Jay Payne  
Cedar Grove Farm  
Stephens, GA

Steve Goolsby  
Goolsby Produce  
Stockbridge, GA

Duane Marcus  
The Funny Farm  
Stone Mountain, GA

Davey Hutchison  
Appalachian Mountain Crawlers  
Suches, GA

Dave Bentoski  
D&A Farm  
Zebulon, GA

## **Illinois**

Vicki Westerhoff  
Genesis Growers  
Anne, IL

Judy Nells  
C & D Family Farms  
Chicago, IL

Norman Emery  
Old Moon Orchards  
Clinton, IL

Michael Walkup  
Walkup Heritage Farm and Garden  
Crystal Lake, IL

John Eisback  
Wooded Wonderland  
Galena, IL

Julia McDonald  
Peasants Plot  
Manteno, IL

Todd Nichols  
Nichols Farm  
Marengo, IL

Troy Edmonds  
Edmonds Acres  
Marengo, IL

Randy Roberts  
Majestic Nursery, Inc  
Newark, IL

Patti McPhillips  
Earth and Skye Farm  
Orland Park, IL

Andy Hazzard  
Hazzard Free Farm  
Pecatonica, IL

Janet Morse  
Trail's End Farm  
Putnam, IL

Tim Fuller  
Erehwon Famrs  
St. Charles, IL

Dennis Zehr  
Coneflower Farm  
Tiskilwa, IL

Anita Poeppel  
Broad Branch Farm  
Wyoming, IL

## **Iowa**

Pam Worden  
Family Farm CSA  
Iowa City, IA

Lloyd Johnson  
Bloomin Wooley Acres  
Nashua, IA

## **Maryland**

Arthur Morgan  
Hamilton Crop Circles  
Baltimore, MD

Wes Ricketts  
Groff's Content Farm  
Damascus, MD

Nancey A. Veldran  
Caprikorn Farms  
Gapland, MD

Mark Dattilio  
Even Star Organic Farm  
Hagerstown, MD

Elizabeth Hertzler  
Hertzler Farm  
Mechanicsville, MD

Joe Bartenfelder  
Bartenfelder Farms  
Nottingham, MD

Kristin Carbone  
Radix Farm  
Upper Marlboro, MD

## **Michigan**

Kenny Stover  
Stover's Farm  
Berrien Springs, MI

Phil Dinges  
D&R Gardens and Orchards  
Berrien Springs, MI

## **Nebraska**

Sharon Shmahl  
Noffke Family Farms  
Papillion, NE

## **North Carolina**

Mike Bradley  
Farmhouse Beef  
Marshall, NC

## **Pennsylvania**

Shawn Garretson  
Beechwood Orchards  
Biglerville, PA

Ruth Woerner  
Woerner Orchards  
Orrtanna, PA

## **Rhode Island**

Nancy Barusso  
Goose Pond Farm  
Kingston, RI

Steven Arnold  
Wild Rhody and F/V Elizabeth Helen  
Narragansett, RI

Perry Raso  
Matunuck Oyster Farm  
South Kingstown, RI

## **Virginia**

Daniel Wade  
Ashburn, VA

Shannon Utterback  
Berryville, VA

Susan Pearson  
Bluemont, VA

Somer Gregory  
TwinFeather Farm  
Collett, VA

Jose Reyes  
Walnut Hill Farm  
Colonial Beach, VA

Erik Sather  
Wegmeyer Farms  
Hamilton, VA  
Chris Hatch  
Mill Road Farm, Inc  
Leesburg, VA

Avis Renshaw  
Mom's Apple Pies  
Leesburg, VA

Floyd Blethen  
F & V Farm  
Lovettsville, VA

Grace Hockenbeck  
Hamlet Organic Garden  
Lovettsville, VA

Tylee Ulmer  
Milcreek Farm  
Lovettsville, VA

Annie Wyant  
Log Grown Shiitake Mushrooms  
Lovettsville, VA

Ashley Wells  
Willow Hawk Farm  
Lovettsville, VA

Julia Medina  
Westmoreland Produce  
Montross, VA

Sally Holdener  
Rainbow Acres Farm  
Nokesville, VA

Brian Balagurchik  
Purcellville, VA

Kim Bowman  
Hidden Creek Apiary  
Purcellville, VA

Kathy Reynolds  
Purcellville, VA

Jared Shaw  
Mintshine  
Purcellville, VA

Jon Nemecek  
Small Pond Farm  
Rapidan, VA

John Bailey  
Woodtrail Graziers  
Round Hill, VA

Holly Glenn  
Martin's Angus Beef  
The Plains, VA

William Martin  
Martin's Angus Beef  
The Plains, VA

Faviola Garcia  
Warsaw, VA

Juan F. Valencia  
Valencia's Produce  
Warsaw, VA

Cristina Medina Valencia  
Valencia's Produce  
Warsaw, VA

Miguel S. Flores  
Valencia's Produce  
Warsaw, VA

Jessica Kimble  
Kimble Farm  
Augusta, WV

Wyatt Kesecker  
Quail Hollow Farm  
Berkeley Springs, WV

Rachel Hendershot  
Glascock's Produce  
Berkeley Springs, WV

Jane Gleason  
Gleason Orchard and Greenhouse  
Berkeley Springs, WV

Kathalee Cole  
Hedgesville, WV

Michelle Hess  
Martinsburg, WV

Ian Kerns  
Martinsburg, WV