Allagash Brewing Company · Alliance Brewing Company · Andersonville Brewing Asheville Brewing Company · Avery Brewing Company · Bang Brewing Blue Point Brewing Company · Brewery Techne · Brewery Vivant · Brooklyn Brewery Bull City Burger and Brewery · Clinch River Brewing · Corridor Brewery & Provisions Cypress and Grove Brewing Company · DryHop Brewers · Earth Bread + Brewery Engrained Brewery & Restaurant · Fiddlin' Fish Brewing Company Flossmoor Station Brewing Company · Forest City Brewery · Founders Brewing Company Fremont Brewing · Grand Rapids Brewing Company · Great Lakes Brewing Company Greenstar Organic Brewing · Half Acre Beer · Half Moon Bay Brewing Company · HopCat Horse & Dragon Brewing Company · Lakefront Brewery · Land-Grant Brewing Company Lost Rhino Brewing Company · Maine Beer Company · Maui Brewing Company Naked River Brewing Company · New Belgium Brewing · Odell Brewing Company Old Bust Head Brewing Company · One World Brewing · Port City Brewing Company **Revolution Brewing · Right Brain Brewery · Rising Tide Brewing Company Rolling Meadows Farm Brewery · Sailfish Brewing Company · Saltwater Brewery** Sanctuary Brewing Company · Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. · Sleepy Dog Brewery Smartmouth Brewing Company · Starr Hill Brewery · SweetWater Brewing Company Temperance Beer Co. · Two Brothers Brewing Company · Upslope Brewing Company Wild Onion Brewery · Wild Wolf Brewing Company · Wolf Hills Brewing Company Wrightsville Beach Brewery

March 7, 2019

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler	The Honorable R.D. James
Administrator	Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	U.S. Department of the Army
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW	104 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20460	Washington, DC 20310

Submitted online via regulations.gov

RE: Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OW-2018-0149: Revised Definition of "Waters of the United States," 84 Fed. Reg. 4154 (Feb. 14, 2019)

Dear Administrator Wheeler and Assistant Secretary James:

We oppose your proposal to substantially limit the number of waterways receiving protection under the Clean Water Act. This rule would endanger critical wetlands and streams across the country—waterways that our craft breweries depend on to provide the clean water we use to brew our beer.

Beer is mostly water, so the quality of our source water significantly affects our finished product. Compounds present in brewing water can affect pH, color, aroma, and taste. Sulfates make hops taste astringent, while chlorine can create a medicinal off-flavor. The presence of bacteria can spoil a batch of beer. Even small chemical disruptions in our water supply can influence factors like shelf life and foam pattern.

Unexpected changes in water quality—due to pollution in our source water, or a change in the treatment process at our local drinking water plant—can threaten our brewing process and our bottom line. We need reliable sources of clean water to consistently produce the great beer that is key to our success. It is thanks in part to this important natural resource that the craft brewing industry contributes about \$76.2 billion to the U.S. economy each year, along with more than 500,000 jobs.¹

For years, craft brewers have been asking for more clean water protections, not fewer. We supported the 2015 Clean Water Rule because it helped protect the sources of drinking water for 117 million Americans from pollution and destruction, providing certainty that we would continue to have access to the clean water on which our livelihoods depend. Importantly, that rule was based on sound science. The record showed that the waters it protected had biological, chemical, and physical connections to larger downstream waterways.

This proposed rule, to the contrary, ignores the overwhelming scientific evidence that protecting small streams and wetlands is essential to ensuring the quality of America's water sources. It would prohibit applying federal pollution-control safeguards to rain-dependent streams and exclude wetlands that do not have a surface connection to other protected waters. It also invites polluters to ask for even greater rollbacks, such as eliminating protections for seasonally-flowing streams.

We strongly oppose these proposed changes, which would affect millions of miles of streams and most of the nation's wetlands. Science shows that protecting these waters is important to downstream water quality. We must maintain clear protections for the vulnerable waterways that provide our most important ingredient.

We are depending on you not to roll back the safeguards established under the Clean Water Act. Protecting clean water is central to our long-term business success. Moreover, it is vital to the health and the economy of the communities where we live and work.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

¹ Brewers Association statistics from 2017. https://www.brewersassociation.org/statistics/economic-impact-data/.

Sincerely,

















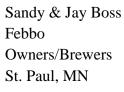
Jason Perkins Brewmaster Portland, ME

Stephanie Carlson Knoxville Area Brewers Assoc. Knoxville, TN

Brandon Wright Co-Owner/ Head Brewer Chicago, IL

Michael Rangel Co-Owner Asheville, NC

Adam Avery Founder & CEO Boulder, CO



Mark Burford Founder Patchogue, NY

Peggy Zwerver Co-Owner Philadelphia, PA

















Kris Spaulding Co-Owner Grand Rapids, MI

Steve Hindy Founder Brooklyn, NY

Seth Gross Owner Durham, NC

Jordan Skeen Head Brewer Norris, TN

Greg Shuff Owner Chicago, IL

Anna Heineman Owner Gainesville, FL

Greg Shuff Owner Chicago, IL

Peggy Zwerver Co-Owner Philadelphia, PA

















Brent Schwoerer Owner/Founder/ Brewer Springfield, IL

Stuart Barnhart

Winston-Salem, NC

President/Co-

Founder

Ryan Czaja

Head Brewer

Flossmoor, IL

Jay Demagall

Co-Founder/

Cleveland, OH

Dave Engbers

Grand Rapids, MI

Co-Founder/

Sara Nelson

Co-Founder/

Seattle, WA

Carrie Veldman

Sustainability &

Grand Rapids, MI

Philanthropy

Saul Kliorys

Sustainability

Cleveland, OH

Manager

Manager

Owner

President

Owner

















Michael Cameron Owner/Founder Chicago, IL

Gabriel Magliaro President Chicago, IL

Mary Oldham Director of Marketing Half Moon Bay, CA

Carrie Veldman Sustainability & Philanthropy Mgr. Grand Rapids, MI

Carol & Tim Cochran Co-Founders Fort Collins, CO

Russell J. Klisch President Milwaukee, WI

Vincent Valentino Sustainability & Operations Mgr. Columbus, OH

Matthew Hagerman CEO/Founder Ashburn, VA

4

Maine Beer Company













Ike Broaddus Owner Warrenton, VA

Daniel Kleban

Freeport, ME

Garrett Marrero &

Melanie Oxley Co-Founders

Jake Raulston

Chattanooga, TN

Steve Fechheimer

Fort Collins, CO

Corey Odell

Coordinator

Sustainability

Fort Collins, CO

Kihei, HI

CEO

CEO

Owner















Russell Springsteen Owner Traverse City, MI

Heather Sanborn Co-Owner Portland, ME

Chris Trudeau Founder Cantrall, IL

Taylor Welchel General Manager Fort Pierce, FL

Dustin Jeffers Head of Operations Delray Beach, FL

Lisa McDonald Co-Owner Hendersonville, NC

Mandi McKay Sustainability Manager Chico, CA





Lisa Schutz Owner Asheville, NC

Bill Butcher Founder Alexandria, VA





















James Ebel Owner Tempe, AZ

Chris Neikirk Co-Founder Norfolk, VA

Allie Hochman General Manager Crozet, VA

Freddy Bensch Founder Atlanta, GA

Josh Gilbert Owner/Founder Evanston, IL

James Ebel Owner Warrenville, IL

Matt Cutter Founder Boulder, CO

Mike Kainz Owner Lake Barrington, IL







WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH BREWERY

Mary Wolf Founder/Owner Nellysford, VA

Chris Burcher President & Co-Founder Abingdon, VA

Jud Watkins Owner/Brewer Wilmington, NC