

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Calvert and Simpson and Ranking Members McCollum and Kaptur:

We write to urge you to include language in the upcoming Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2017 and the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2017 which would prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) from using appropriated funds to implement the "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS), or any substantially similar rule or guidance under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The final adoption of the flawed WOTUS rule by the EPA and USACE will have disastrous effects on agriculture, small business, and municipalities across the country. The language of the rule is drafted so vaguely that it encompasses nearly all water sources with any hydrologic connection to downstream navigable waters, including ditches, pipes, farmland ponds, groundwater, as well as other waters traditionally regulated by the state.

This proposal runs contrary to Supreme Court decisions as well as state and tribal water laws. If implemented, this water grab would constitute an unlawful expansion of federal authority under the CWA. Currently, there are 170 bipartisan cosponsors of legislation to roll back this rule. Furthermore, more than 200 different stakeholders throughout the nation have raised serious concerns and issued public statements in opposition to WOTUS.

Although the rule is currently tied up in the court system, it is imperative Congress act now to prevent further implementation of this devastating rule and prohibit the EPA and USACE from using appropriated funds for WOTUS or any substantially similar rule.

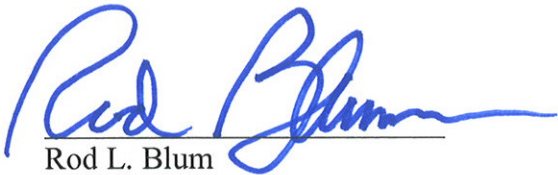
Accordingly, we ask that you include language similar to the following in the respective Appropriations Acts:

“SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the final rule entitled ‘Clean Water Rule: Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’ ’ published in the Federal Register on June 29, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 37054), or any substantially similar rule.

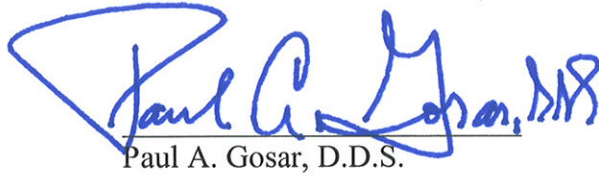
We ask that you to consider the effects that this rule would have on important sectors of our economy, and we urge you to include prohibiting language in the upcoming Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2017 and the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request, and for your continued leadership on your committees.

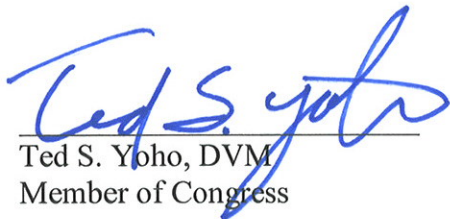
Sincerely,



Rod L. Blum
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



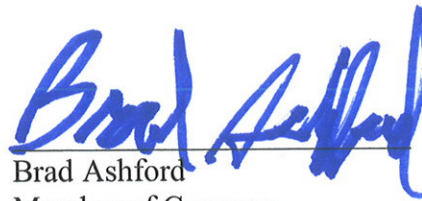
Ted S. Yoho, DVM
Member of Congress



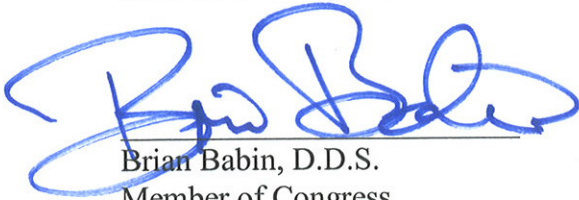
Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



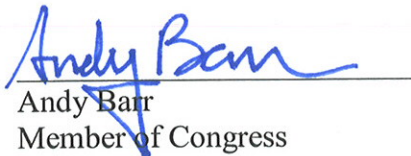
Brad Ashford
Member of Congress



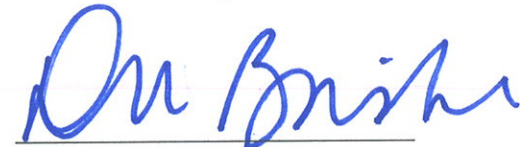
Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



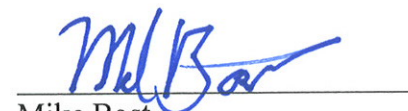
Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek M.D.
Member of Congress



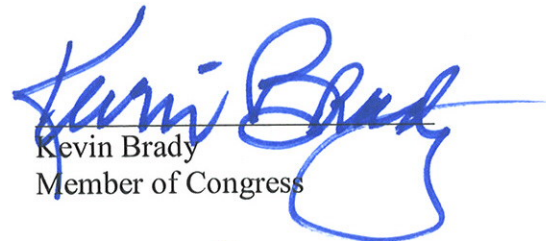
Diane Black
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Charles W. Boustany, Jr., M.D.
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



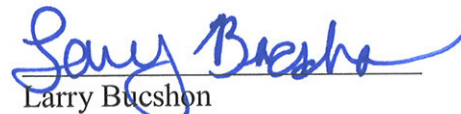
Dave Brat
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon
Member of Congress



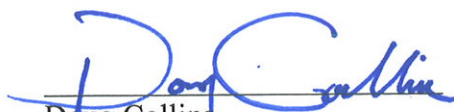
Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



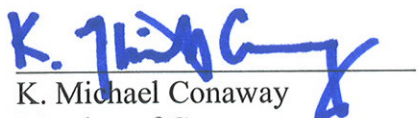
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



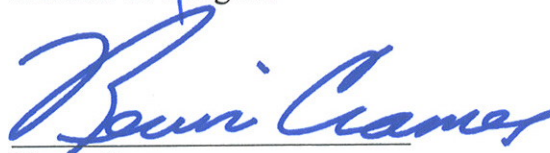
Chris Collins
Member of Congress



Doug Collins
Member of Congress



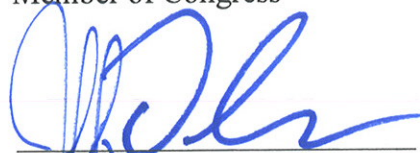
K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress



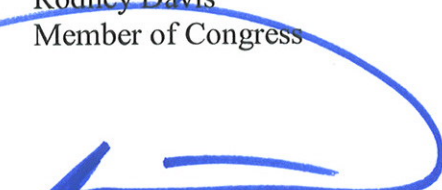
Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



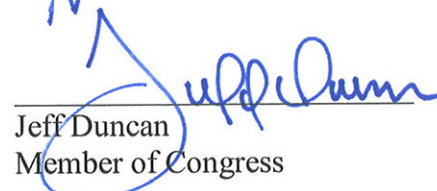
Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Jeff Denham
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress



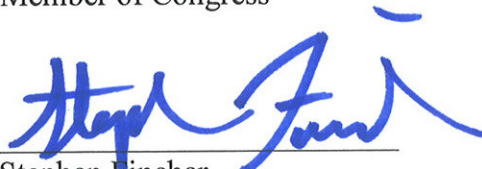
Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



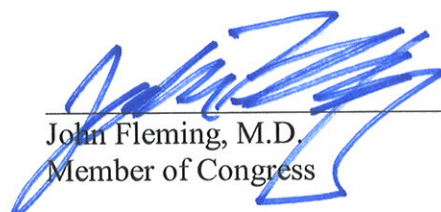
Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



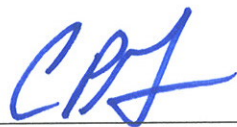
Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress



Stephen Fincher
Member of Congress



John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress



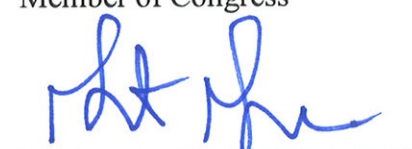
Chris Gibson
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



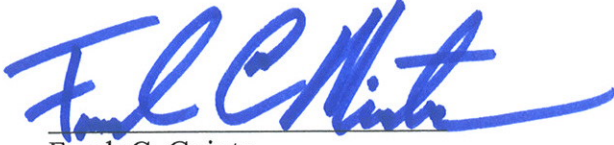
Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



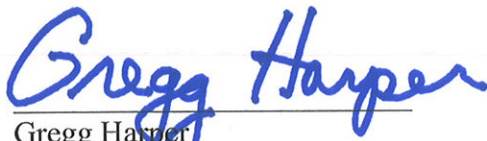
Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



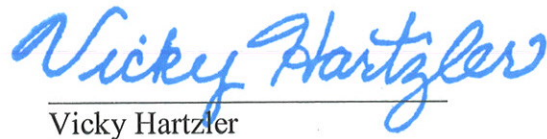
Frank C. Guinta
Member of Congress



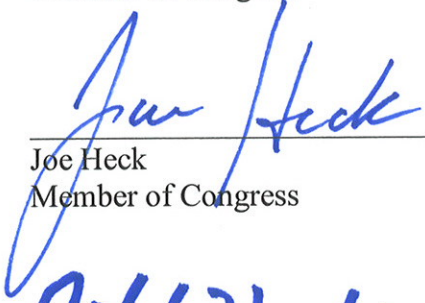
Crescent Hardy
Member of Congress



Gregg Harper
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



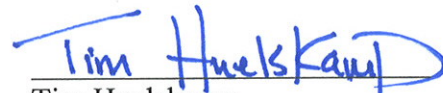
Joe Heck
Member of Congress



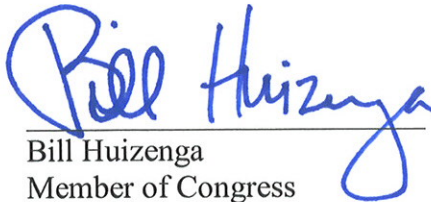
French Hill
Member of Congress



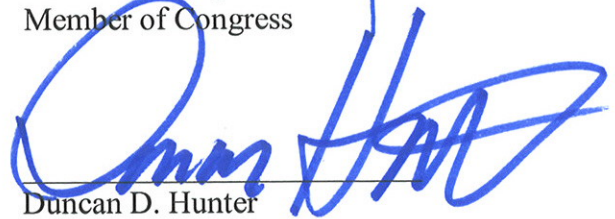
Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



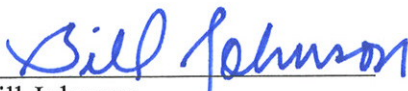
Duncan D. Hunter
Member of Congress



Will Hurd
Member of Congress



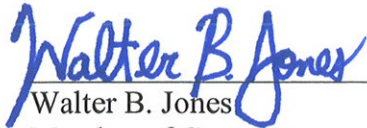
Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



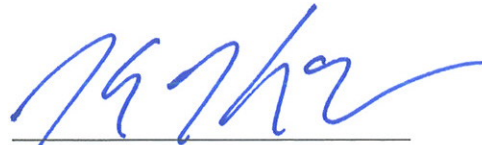
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



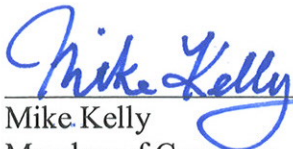
Sam Johnson
Member of Congress


Walter B. Jones

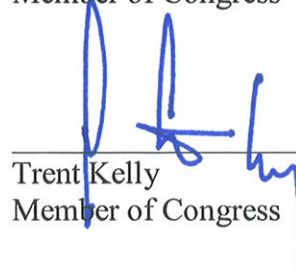
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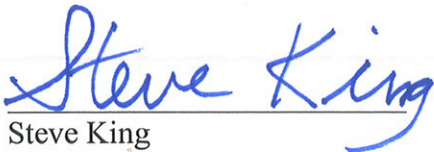
John Katko
Member of Congress


Mike Kelly

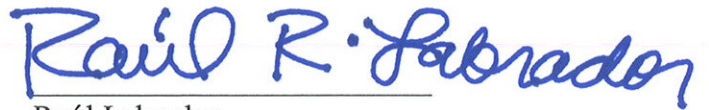
Member of Congress


Trent Kelly

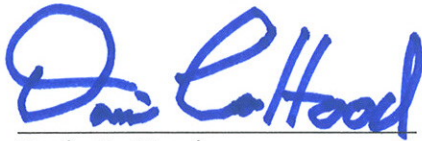
Member of Congress


Steve King

Member of Congress


Raúl R. Labrador

Raúl Labrador
Member of Congress


Darin LaHood

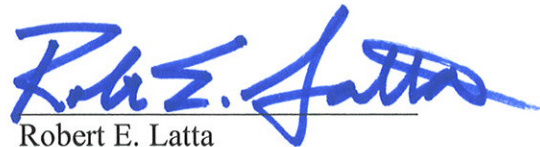
Member of Congress


Doug LaMalfa

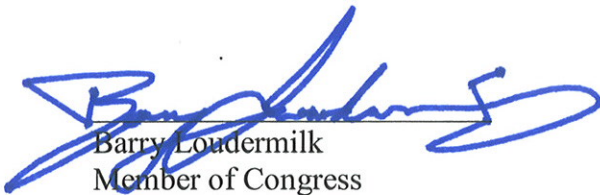
Member of Congress


Doug Lamborn

Member of Congress


Robert E. Latta

Member of Congress


Barry Loudermilk

Member of Congress


Frank Lucas

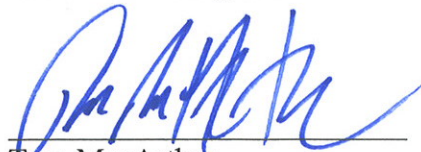
Member of Congress


Blaine Luetkemeyer

Member of Congress


Cynthia Lummis

Member of Congress


Tom MacArthur

Member of Congress


Tom Marino

Member of Congress

Thomas Massie

Thomas Massie
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

Tom McClintock

Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley

David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

Cathy McMorris Rodgers

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

Martha McSally

Martha McSally
Member of Congress

Luke Messer

Luke Messer
Member of Congress

John Mica

John Mica
Member of Congress

Jeff Miller

Jeff Miller
Member of Congress

Tim Murphy

Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

Randy Neugebauer

Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress

Dan Newhouse

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

Kristi Noem

Kristi Noem
Member of Congress

Pete Olson

Pete Olson
Member of Congress

Gary Palmer

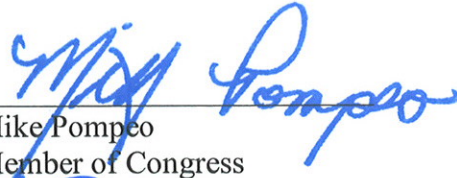
Gary Palmer
Member of Congress

Steve Pearce

Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



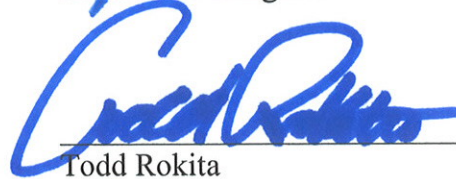
Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress



Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress



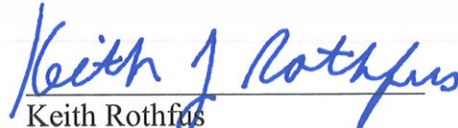
John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress



Todd Rokita
Member of Congress



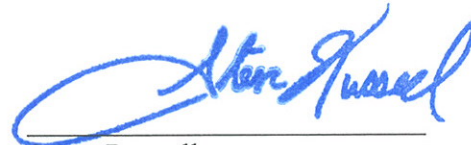
Dennis Ross
Member of Congress



Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress



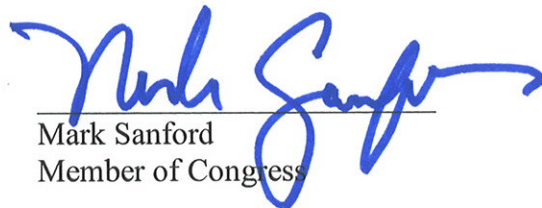
David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Steve Russell
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon
Member of Congress



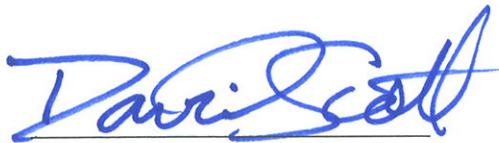
Mark Sanford
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



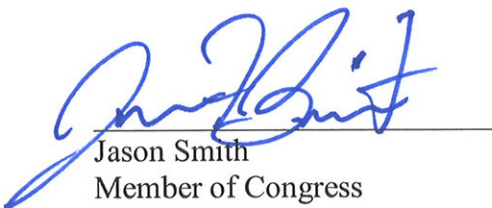
Austin Scott
Member of Congress



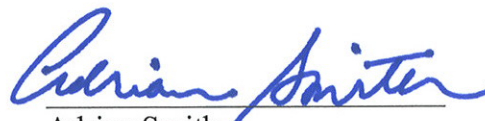
David Scott
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



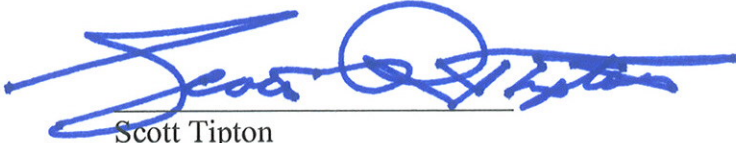
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



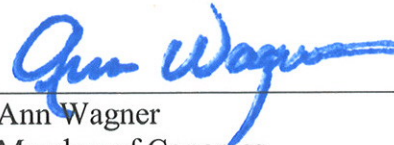
Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



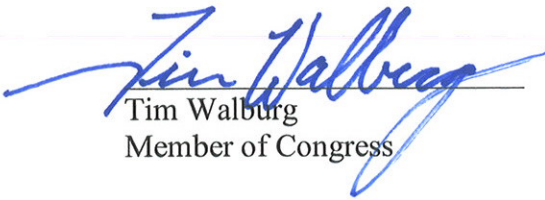
Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Tim Walburg
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress



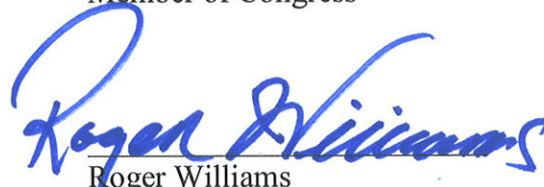
Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



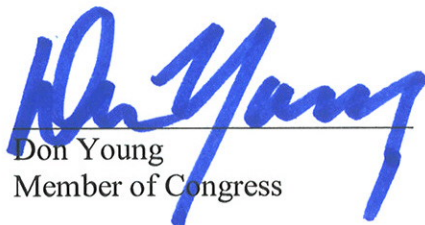
Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress



Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress



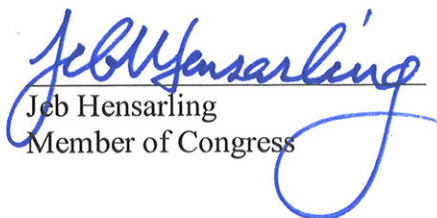
Roger Williams
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress



Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress



Rick Allen
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall

Rob Woodall
Member of Congress

Joseph R. Pitts

Joseph R. Pitts
Member of Congress

Rick Crawford

Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

Mick Mulvaney

Mick Mulvaney
Member of Congress