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**Property Rights Coalition Statement on “Waters of the United States” Proposed Rule**  
Conservatives Applaud Trump Administration’s Action as “Good First Step”

(Washington, D.C.) — The following statement may be attributed to James Edwards, executive director of Conservatives for Property Rights, a coalition of conservative and libertarian organizations dedicated to the first principles of private property rights. The statement comments on the Environmental Protection Agency’s and the Corps of Engineers’ recent rule proposing to withdraw the Obama administration’s “Waters of the United States” regulation and rely on the pre-2015 interpretation of the Clean Water Act.

“Conservatives for Property Rights applauds the Trump administration for pulling back the previous administration’s far-reaching WOTUS rule. That rule would have compounded the regulatory vagueness and expanded the EPA’s and the Corps’ discretion far beyond what is reasonable.

“Private property owners most certainly would have suffered regulatory takings and seen unelected bureaucrats render their property unusable and unproductive. President Trump’s reversal of this misguided rule is a good first step toward restoring reasonable, clear, bright lines where the Clean Water Act is concerned.

“We encourage the Trump administration to finish the job by simplifying the rules governing wetlands, navigable waters, and so forth so that average Americans easily can apply the rules, and restoring common sense and constitutional limits under the Commerce Clause and the Due Process Clause. These actions would strengthen property rights and move away from deferring to unelected bureaucrats and unaccountable judicial activists.”

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