



**Conservatives
for
Property Rights**

April 23, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
S-230 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Majority Leader and Mr. Speaker:

Conservatives for Property Rights, a coalition of conservative and libertarian organizations dedicated to first principles of private property rights, urges you to repeal the Waters of the United States, or WOTUS, rule devised by the Obama Environmental Protection Agency and the Corps of Engineers.

CPR emphasizes the central importance of private property in all its forms — physical, personal, and intellectual. The right to private property ranks among the unalienable rights the Founders referenced in the Declaration of Independence.

Our coalition urges you to prioritize the restoration of the pre-2015 interpretation of the Clean Water Act. Under the Obama WOTUS rule, more than 60 percent of the nation's streams and millions of acres of wetlands are swept under federal jurisdiction. This rule would compound the regulatory vagueness and expand the EPA's and the Corps' discretion far beyond what is reasonable — tantamount to a wholesale taking without just compensation.

The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals has lifted a nationwide stay that had held up this federal taking of private property and state property. In January, the EPA finalized a rule delaying by two years the WOTUS rule's implementation. However, the agency's move has been attacked by environmentalists and blue-state attorneys general. Given legal machinations, judicial activism, and unknown changes following the midterm elections, this Obama aggression requires Congress's high priority. Thus, it is imperative that Congress act immediately to relieve permanently this threat to fundamental property rights.

Whereas President Obama in 2016 vetoed Congressional Review Act legislation that would have stopped the overreaching WOTUS rule, President Trump will sign a repeal bill. The time is right and circumstances dictate immediate congressional action.

In conclusion, Conservatives for Property Rights strongly supports repealing the WOTUS rule and urges quick action. CPR looks forward to working with you toward that meritorious end. Thank you!

Sincerely,

James Edwards
Executive Director
Conservatives for Property Rights

Jason Pye
Vice President of Legislative Affairs
FreedomWorks

Seton Motley
President
Less Government

Norm Singleton
President
Campaign for Liberty

Kevin L. Kearns
President
U.S. Business & Industry Council

Ed Martin
President
Eagle Forum Education & Legal Defense Fund

C. Preston Noell III
President
Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.

Daniel Schneider
Executive Director
American Conservative Union

Dick Patten
President
American Business Defense Council

Paul Caprio
Director
Family PAC Federal

Matthew Kandrach
President
Consumer Action for a Strong Economy

Colin Hanna
President
Let Freedom Ring

Jenny Beth Martin
Chairman
Tea Party Patriots Citizens Fund

George Landrith
President
Frontiers of Freedom