

Stop the Attack on the Clean Water Rule

Protect Illinois' Drinking Water

The Clean Water Rule was recently finalized by the Obama administration after years of planning, 400 stakeholder meetings, and more than a million public comments. It safeguards our water and restores protections to the drinking water sources for 1 in 3 Americans. This includes the drinking water for nearly 1 in every 10 Illinois residents. **The Clean Water Rule is a strong, commonsense policy that makes clean water a priority throughout the nation.** If Congress blocks the Clean Water Rule, at least 56% of Illinois' stream miles and millions of acres of wetlands nationwide will again be at risk from pollution and destruction from development, oil and gas production, and other industrial activities. Blocking this rule would imperil drinking water sources, as well as the small businesses and communities that rely on clean water.

Stream in the Illinois River Valley



Credit: Macomb Paynes on [flickr](#)

- **13% of Illinois residents get** their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams that are protected by the Clean Water Rule.
- **Protections were restored to 5,688 miles of streams** that feed into Illinois's drinking water sources.
- **Thousands of acres of wetlands** that provide flood protection, recharge groundwater supplies, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are safeguarded.

Rule Provides More Economic Benefits than Costs

- **The Clean Water Rule restores, but does not expand, the historic coverage of the Clean Water Act.** EPA estimates that the rule will provide at least \$339 million and up to \$572 million annually in benefits to the public, including reducing flooding, filtering pollution, providing wildlife habitat, supporting hunting and fishing, and recharging groundwater.
- **Protecting small streams and wetlands supports fish and wildlife and Illinois's vibrant recreational industry.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that in 2011, \$3.8 billion was spent on wildlife recreation in Illinois, including \$973 million on fishing, and more than 3.8 million people participated in these recreational activities throughout the state.
- **Illinois's thriving brewing industry relies on clean water.** Illinois breweries contribute more than \$1.3 billion to our economy every year and support nearly 14,000 jobs.

Illinois Clean Water Rule Supporters

- **More than 33,000 Illinois residents, out of more than 800,000 Americans, support the rule.**
- Fourteen watershed groups representing thousands of Illinois residents, brewers, small business owners, sportsmen, educators and scientists support protections for clean water.
- The State's Attorney General voiced support for the rule. Illinois also joined 34 other states in 2006 to urge the Supreme Court to uphold strong federal clean water protections.
- Groups like the Illinois League of Women Voters and 10 Illinois-based brewers, including Half Acre Beer Company, Wild Onion Brewing Company and Revolution Brewing, all support the rule.
- Recent polling shows that 79% of Americans want Congress to let EPA implement the Rule.

For more information please visit www.protectcleanwater.org