

Date: *(Add date)*

RE: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0203

I am writing to support the proposal to rescind the 2015 "Waters of the U.S." rule.

As a farmer, I strongly support this effort. Water is important to me and my family. I am glad that you recognize the flaws of the current WOTUS rule. It is overly broad and creates heavy burdens and costs, legal risks and tremendous uncertainties for farmers like me who depend on the land. Under the 2015 rule, farmers and landowners across the country face new roadblocks to ordinary land-use activities.

I applaud EPA for taking this important first step toward developing a new definition of waters of the United States that will protect water quality while also promoting economic growth, minimizing regulatory uncertainty and respecting the proper roles of Congress and the states under the Constitution.

The WOTUS rule has never been implemented because it was stayed by both a federal district court and a federal court of appeals due to its flaws and violations. Challengers raised numerous substantive and procedural defects in the rule, including that the rule exceeds EPA's statutory authority, imposes burdensome regulatory uncertainty, was finalized in violation of mandatory procedural requirements designed to ensure a well-informed result and is otherwise unlawful. In all, the rule was challenged in multiple courts by all sides (31 states and 53 non-state parties, including environmental groups, state and local governments, farmers, landowners, developers, businesses and recreation groups).

The EPA should move forward and ditch this rule once and for all, then go back to the drawing board and write a new rule that protects water quality without trampling the rights of landowners, businesses and the states.

Sincerely,

*(Your name)*