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April 29, 2015

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of its one million members, the National Association of REALTORS® requests your support for H.R. 1732, the “Regulatory Integrity Protection Act” when it is brought to the floor later this week.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) are working to finalize a proposed rule to redefine “Waters of the U.S.” (WOTUS). This rule would significantly expand the EPA’s jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and would apply CWA authority to all natural and man-made waters, including streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, and ditches. This proposed expansion of the CWA would result in additional permitting of pollution discharges, including in the case of homeowners who want to improve their property.

This Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, the House of Representatives may consider H.R. 1732, “Regulatory Integrity Protection Act of 2015.” This bill would require the Administration to withdraw this flawed proposed rule. It would also require the EPA and Corps to engage in outreach to regulated stakeholders, including state and local governments. Additionally the agencies would have to carefully consider all public comments before putting forward a new proposed rule – as should have been done under the current rulemaking process.

H.R. 1732 does not roll back any existing environmental protections or prevent the agencies from regulating where they find some common ground with the States and also provide a legal, policy and scientific basis for their regulatory decisions. It simply acknowledges that the administrative process for the current proposal was flawed and opportunities for meaningful input, data and consultation could strengthen the rulemaking while minimizing unnecessary red tape.

Please support passage of H.R. 1732, the “Regulatory Integrity Protection Act.” NAR looks forward to working with you and the Congress to protect high value water bodies and wetlands while minimizing unnecessary red tape and permitting burden on the real estate market and the rest of the economy.

Sincerely,



Chris Polychron  
2015 President, National Association of REALTORS®

