

Stop the Attack on Illinois' Drinking Water

Stop the attacks on America's drinking water. 1 in 3 Americans' drinking water sources are at risk now. That includes the drinking water for nearly 1 in every 10 Illinoisans. **The Administration has a strong, commonsense plan to make clean water a priority by protecting the sources that feed the drinking water for more than 117 million Americans, including 1.67 million Illinois residents.** If Congress blocks the proposal to protect clean water, at least 56% of Illinois' streams and 20 million acres of wetlands nationwide will continue to be at risk from pollution and destruction from development, oil and gas production, and other industrial activities. Stopping this proposal imperils 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 – more than 1 out of 10 residents** – get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams currently vulnerable to pollution.
- **5,688 miles of streams** that feed into Illinois's drinking water sources are at risk. The Clean Water Rule would clarify protections for 57% of the stream miles in IL's Source Water Protection Areas, including intermittent, ephemeral, and headwater streams.
- **Thousands of acres of wetlands** that provide flood protection, recharge groundwater supplies, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are at risk.

Rule Provides More Economic Benefits than Costs

- **This commonsense proposal restores, but does not expand, the historic coverage of the Clean Water Act.** EPA estimates that the proposed rule would provide **\$388 million to \$514 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 \$972 million on fishing, and more than 3.8 million people participated in these recreational activities in Illinois.
- **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 32,000 Illinois residents, out of more than 800,000 Americans, expressed 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.

For more information, please visit protectcleanwater.org.