

Stop the Attack on Rhode Island's 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 1 in every 2 Rhode Islanders. **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 over 500 thousand Rhode Islanders.** If Congress blocks the proposal to protect clean water, at least 54% of Rhode Island's stream miles and 20 million acres of wetlands nationwide will continue to be at risk from pollution and destruction caused by development, oil and gas production, and other industrial activities. Stopping this proposal imperils drinking water sources, as well as small businesses and communities that rely on clean water.

RI's iconic Pawcatuck River



- **53% of Rhode Islanders – 1 out of 2 residents** - get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams currently vulnerable to pollution.
- **169 miles of streams** that feed into Rhode Island's drinking water sources are at risk. The Clean Water Rule would clarify protections for 63% of the stream miles in RI'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, wildlife, and Rhode Island's vibrant recreational industry.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that in 2011, \$360 million was spent on wildlife recreation in RI, including \$130 million on fishing alone, and more than 402,000 people participated in these recreational activities.
- **Rhode Island's thriving brewing industry relies on clean water.** Small Rhode Island breweries contribute almost \$110 million to our economy every year and support more than 1,300 jobs.

Rhode Island Clean Water Rule Supporters

- **More than 5,000 Rhode Islanders, out of more than 800,000 Americans expressed support for the rule.**
- 48 organizations representing thousands of Rhode Islanders.
- The City of Providence and the Rhode Island Attorney General.
- RI joined 34 other states in 2006 to urge the Supreme Court to uphold strong federal clean water protections and in 2003 opposed Bush administration efforts to roll back protections for small streams and wetlands.

For more information please visit protectcleanwater.org