

Greetings Students, Friends and Colleagues,

As you know, sending political information to you – well, it just isn't what I do. However; in this case I have to make an exception.

I worked with many of you in the Southeast on water issues over the years. As we did so, we worked with a wide array of stakeholders from urban school children to developers and builders to farmers and corporate partners. We made our livings in different ways but we all agreed clean water was paramount for healthy homes, communities and businesses.

As we all worked together (whether you are one of my students who learned about integrated planning, or a business friend, or a colleague working today to help protect Missouri's prairies and water) we knew we had The Clean Water Act to help us in enhancing water quality and supply. Over the years a number of stakeholders from the building and farming professions lamented that some of the language in that Act needed clarification – a way of making sure consistencies were carried out across the board. That's why I was delighted when EPA came out with a Waters of the U.S. Clean Water Rule.

It doesn't add any new waters for protection.

It doesn't strip away exclusions for folks like farmers.

It just helps clarify the original Act. That's what people wanted and that's what they're working to deliver. You can read all about it for yourself here:

<http://www2.epa.gov/cleanwaterrule>

<http://www2.epa.gov/cleanwaterrule/documents-related-proposed-definition-waters-united-states-under-clean-water-act>

And, if you ever wondered whether your comments make a difference – they do and you can see that here: <http://blog.epa.gov/epaconnect/2015/04/your-input-is-shaping-the-clean-water-rule/>

I think you'll agree when you read this, that the Rule is a good thing. Unfortunately, there are certain entities out there who are lobbying our Congress to not pass the Rule. I'm simply amazed and yes, even angry, when I've read their information – at just how twisted they have translated what has been put forth. I'm not running for any office so, I don't need to sink into the mud by calling them out individually. I'm just counting on what you know of me to move you toward calling your Congressmen and women to ask them to please, pass the Clean Water Rule.

The National Wildlife Federation asks you below to do it for the otters. <http://www.nwf.org/Who-We-Are/Affiliate-Partnership/Tools-and-Resources/Waters-of-the-US-Rule.aspx>

River Network is asking you to do it for our rivers, lakes and wetlands. <http://www.rivernetwork.org/waters-of-the-us-2014>

I'm asking you to do it for all of us.

You can write your own comments after reading these materials or call me to ask for additional help. (I'd love to know if you do something!) Either way – the otters will appreciate it and I will too.

Here's to you and our watersheds too,

Margo

Margo Farnsworth

Screendoor Consulting

<http://screendoorconsulting.com/>

615.478.4889

***Give good people good information and they'll do good things.***

(If you've just received this single newsletter, it may be because I thought you'd be interested in this particular subject. You may or may not get others. If you want on my list regularly, e-mail me. If you want off my list, e-mail me. Thanks!)



Dear Margo,

Almost 80,000 friends of wildlife have already spoken out for clean water that otters depend on.

**But this week the smallest wetlands and streams, where rivers begin, are under threat.** Too many members of Congress are voting in favor of polluters—and could derail the protection of clean water and vital wildlife habitat.

**Take action today to urge your members of Congress to protect clean water.**

Many small wetlands and streams are in limbo without the clear protection of the Clean Water Act. Thanks to supporters like

Clean Water for Otters is at Risk



**Send a message to Congress today>>**

you and a lot of hard work, we are **very close to restoring safeguards to these vital habitats** through the Clean Water Protection Rule.

Now, it's up to us to ensure the Clean Water Protection Rule crosses the finish line **for river otters, fish and great blue herons** by stopping members of Congress from voting on the side of polluters who want to block the rule.

**In the next few days, the House of Representatives will vote on bills to delay and derail the Clean Water Protection Rule.** The Senate is likely to follow suit. *Please urge your congressional representatives to stand up in support of protecting clean water and vote NO on any legislation that would delay or block the Clean Water Protection Rule.*

**Take action to make a difference for river otters—send a message to your members of Congress urging them to protect wetlands and streams.**

Thank you for all you do to protect clean water and wildlife.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Collin O'Mara'.

Collin O'Mara

President & CEO

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