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May 18, 2015

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
Chairman
United States Senate Fisheries, Water and
Wildlife Subcommittee
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
United States Senate Fisheries, Water and
Wildlife Subcommittee
350 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sullivan and Ranking Member Whitehouse:

The National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) strongly supports S. 1140, The *Federal Water Quality Protection Act*, and urges swift action by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's Fisheries, Water and Wildlife Subcommittee, as well as the full Committee, to approve the measure, and urge leadership to move it to the Senate floor for a vote. NAR is committed to working with the legislation's sponsors, Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) and Senator Joe Donnelly (D-IN), to advance that objective.

NAR supports the *Federal Water Quality Protection Act* because it offers an approach to a revised "waters of the U.S." (WOTUS) rule that will improve the quality of the nation's navigable waters. Doing so will also make it possible to ensure the ability of all Americans to engage in robust economic activity, protect property rights and earn broad support from state and local officials, as well as the regulated community.

There is significant disagreement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), state and local governments, and the regulated community about the scope and effect of the proposed WOTUS rule which will soon be finalized by EPA and the Corps. The procedural requirements contained in the bill, combined with substantive legislative guidance, will allow EPA and the Corps to finalize a rule that achieves the appropriate clarity and certainty sought by all sides of the WOTUS issue.

EPA has characterized the WOTUS rulemaking as important with long lasting effects. Thirty-seven states have voiced strong opposition to the rule, including 27 states that joined the national organizations of mayors, cities and county officials in asking EPA to withdraw the rule and start over. Congress should act now to ensure that the rulemaking is done well, and that the many concerns expressed by the public about the proposed rule are properly addressed within the jurisdictional limitations imposed by Congress and affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Accordingly, NAR urges you and your Committee colleagues to cosponsor and support the *Federal Water Quality Protection Act* when it is considered by the Subcommittee and full Committee.

Sincerely,



Chris Polychron
2015 President, National Association of REALTORS®

cc: United States Senate Fisheries, Water and Wildlife Subcommittee

