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June 18, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran and Vice Chairwoman Mikulski:

On behalf of its 1.1 million members, the National Association of REALTORS® supports provisions in the FY2016 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, which is scheduled for mark-up on Thursday, June 18 in the Senate Committee on Appropriations. If passed, these provisions will bring relief to millions of Americans from costly regulations and federal government overreach.

These provisions would:

1. Prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from using any funds to implement the recently finalized “Waters of the U.S.” rule. This rule significantly expands the federal government’s jurisdiction over more U.S. waters, which will make property development more expensive and burdensome.
2. Prohibit the EPA from using any funds to implement various restrictions on power plants related to the proposed Clean Power Plan. This rule would increase the cost of electricity for consumers, making it more expensive to own a home or operate a commercial building.

NAR urges the Committee’s support for these provisions of the FY 2016 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

NAR looks forward to working with Congress to protect the environment 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®

cc: U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

