

Aric Newhouse

Senior Vice President
Policy and Government Relations

July 13, 2011

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support H.R. 2018, the Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act.

Since 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has asserted authority over state permitting requirements and water quality standards under the Clean Water Act (CWA), in some cases overriding standards it previously approved. In Florida alone, EPA's numeric nutrient rule is expected to cost billions of dollars and tens of thousands of jobs.

In West Virginia, EPA's unprecedented action of retroactively revoking a Section 404 permit – after three years and millions of dollars in infrastructure investments -- creates an uncertain environment for businesses across the nation and puts their infrastructure projects and thousands of jobs that support them at risk. If such actions are allowed to continue, more than \$220 billion of annual economic activity associated with CWA Section 402 and 404 discharge permits could be jeopardized (e.g., manufacturing construction projects, pipelines, electric transmission lines, renewable energy projects, transportation infrastructure improvements, etc.). Without certainty, manufacturers have little incentive to invest in new projects and hire more workers.

H.R. 2018 would preserve jobs by restoring the long-standing balance in regulating the nation's waters under the CWA. The bill guards against regulatory overreach by preventing the EPA from second-guessing or delaying states' permitting and water quality certification decisions and giving America's job creators the assurance they need to move forward with these key projects.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on H.R. 2018, including procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 112th Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Aric Newhouse

Key Manufacturing Vote