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July 3, 2014

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) appreciates the opportunity to work with you and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the proposed rule to clarify *Waters of the U.S.* The LGAC's Protecting America's Workgroup has recently accepted your Charge to prioritize issues of local concern and convened the first of at least four regional meetings with local officials.

The comments the Workgroup received from local government officials in Region 5 centered around a common theme of a need for greater understanding of the proposed rule. There remains considerable confusion as to how the rule and its implementation will affect local governments, tribal interests, natural resources and agricultural interests. The Workgroup will continue to work with EPA to reach out to local stakeholders across the country and provide the LGAC and you with a series of recommendations in response to your charge.

In the interim, the Workgroup and the LGAC are recommending that EPA consider extending the initial public comment period by 180 days to allow local stakeholders more time to thoroughly understand the rule and provide more meaningful comments as to how the rule can be improved to achieve the EPA's goal of greater clarity in defining "*Waters of the U.S.*"

