



John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Craig W. Butler, Director

June 19, 2017

The Honorable E. Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
CWAwotus@epa.gov

Re: Federalism Process for WOTUS Rule Development

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

The state of Ohio appreciates the opportunity to provide comments during the federalism process for the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule development. Attached to this cover letter are specific comments from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) in response to the questions raised by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency during the federalism outreach to the states.

Protection of the nation's waters should be based upon the best scientific information available, balanced with clarity and predictability for federal and state regulators and the regulated community. Please refer to the enclosures for detailed comments on how this rulemaking may affect the state of Ohio.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important rulemaking during the early stages of rule development, and we look forward to continued cooperation as the rulemaking process continues. Questions regarding these comments may be directed to Mr. Harry Kallipolitis at Ohio EPA (harry.kallipolitis@epa.ohio.gov; (614)-644-2146).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig W. Butler".

Craig W. Butler
Director
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Enclosures