



April 25, 2017

Via Electronic & First Class Mail

Hon. E. Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue - Mail Code 1101A  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

I write respectfully to request an opportunity to meet with you as soon as possible concerning EPA's ongoing effort to identify regulations that may be "repealed, replaced or modified to make them less burdensome," pursuant to Executive Order 13777 (February 24, 2017) ("EO") and your memorandum dated March 24, 2017 ("Memorandum").

Waterkeeper Alliance ("Waterkeeper") strengthens and grows a global network of grassroots leaders protecting everyone's right to clean water. We are comprised of 314 Waterkeeper Organizations and Affiliates in 35 countries on 6 continents covering over 2.5 million square miles of watersheds. We currently have 166 Waterkeeper Organizations and Affiliates based in the United States patrolling watersheds ranging from the densest urban megalopolises to rural and unspoiled landscapes. We are the largest and fastest growing non-profit solely focused on clean water. Our goal is drinkable, fishable and swimmable water everywhere.

EPA's overarching mission is to protect human health and the environment. It is essential that this vital mission, and EPA's myriad statutory obligations, be kept in the forefront of your mind as the Agency embarks on this deregulatory process. We have been closely following recent regulatory developments as they pertain to protection of waterways and water quality since President Trump's inauguration. We are increasingly concerned that, as EPA attempts to carry out the administration's "regulatory reform" priorities, the Agency may only actively seek to *meaningfully* engage with a narrow subset of American stakeholders.

We are pleased that you intend for EPA to "seek input from entities significantly affected by [EPA] regulations," but we are concerned that your view of such "input" and "entities" may be too narrow. All of our Waterkeepers, our collective individual members and supporters, and hundreds of millions of Americans who depend on clean water for life could be adversely impacted by reforms that remove or weaken existing regulations that protect and preserve water resources across our country. We hope that you intend EPA's consultations to provide meaningful opportunities for all concerned members of the public - including environmental advocacy organizations like Waterkeeper Alliance - to have their views seriously considered by the Agency. However, your Memorandum appears to suggest that public engagement will be limited to "some general outreach," and expresses *primary* interest in input from "particular stakeholders," i.e., "those

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impacted by [EPA] regulations." We hope and expect that "those impacted" will include those who have been positively impacted by such regulations, and that the Agency will fully consider a wide range of views before it decides to repeal, replace or modify long-established and protective regulatory programs.

We also are troubled by the breakneck schedule you have directed for this effort in your Memorandum, i.e., a deadline of May 15, 2017, for several major offices within EPA, including the Office of Water, to "provide the task force with recommendations regarding specific rules that should be considered for repeal, replacement or modification." Many EPA rules that may be subject to review have been codified for decades and have complex interactive relationships with other federal and state statutes and rules. It is impossible for the agency to responsibly conduct such a review, and to seriously consider the informed views of the public, in less than two months from the date of your Memorandum. Because the Agency appears to be determined to undertake this review, we strongly urge you to enlarge the time frame to provide an adequate opportunity for public engagement, and to provide the subject EPA offices time to consider all of the complex implications of including specific rules on their suggested "repeal, replace or modify" lists.

Finally, as we currently understand this effort, members of the public will essentially be forced to comment "in a vacuum," since commenters wishing to support protective EPA regulations will be required to submit comments without any opportunity to discover which regulations may actually be suggested by Agency offices for repeal, replacement or modification. It will behoove EPA and all stakeholders if the agency invites further public comment *after* the lists of proposed regulatory changes are made available for public review, but before any decisions are made by the task force to commence new rulemakings to eliminate or modify existing regulations.

We would very much appreciate an opportunity to meet with you about these important concerns, and others. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marc A. Yaggi', is written over a horizontal blue line. The signature is stylized and extends upwards and to the right.

Marc A. Yaggi  
Executive Director

cc: President Donald J. Trump  
Samantha Davis, EPA  
Ryan Jackson, EPA  
Dominic J. Mancini, OMB