



## **Clean Water Rule Protects West Virginia's Headwaters**

*The Clean Water Rule finalized by the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers clarifies which waters are and are not protected under the Clean Water Act. Specifically, the rule would restore pollution protections that used to exist for our headwater streams that feed into bigger rivers and ultimately end up in our drinking water supply. For more info on the rule: [www2.epa.gov/cleanwaterrule/clean-water-rule-documents-related-clean-water-rule](http://www2.epa.gov/cleanwaterrule/clean-water-rule-documents-related-clean-water-rule).*

### ***The Clean Water Rule protects drinking water sources for West Virginians.***

- 54% of West Virginians get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams currently vulnerable to pollution – the rule ensures their protection under the Clean Water Act.
- The rule protects 8,390 miles of streams that feed into West Virginia's drinking water sources, including 57% of the stream miles in WV's Source Water Protection Areas.

### ***The Clean Water Rule responds to West Virginians' desire for clean, safe water – starting with headwaters protection.***

In a 2014 bi-partisan poll conducted by Global Strategies Group and Bob Moore, Inc. for WV Rivers Coalition:

- More than 4 in 5 voters think the government should play a role in preserving headwaters in West Virginia, with 58 percent saying the government should play a *major role*.
- 88% of voters find issues involving clean water and the health of West Virginia's headwaters important to their voting decision. A majority (59%) find these issues very important to their voting decision.
- 79% of voters say that "we can protect land and water quality in West Virginia and have a strong economy with good jobs at the same time, without having to choose one over the other."

### ***Americans support the Clean Water Rule.***

- More than 800,000 Americans, 2,000 West Virginians, and 17 organizational members of the WV Safe Water Roundtable called for a strong Clean Water Rule in 2014.
- According to a poll conducted by Hart Research Associates for the League of Conservation Voters in May 2015, the public is strongly in favor of the Clean Water Rule, and they trust the Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA, not Congress to protect their drinking water. Strong support exists among Democrats, Republicans and Independents. Key conclusions from the poll include:
  - **85%** of voters **FAVOR** the Clean Water Rule;
  - **79%** believe that Congress **SHOULD** allow the rule to go forward and monitor its implementation;
  - **69%** would rate their Senator **LESS FAVORABLY** if they voted to block implementation.