

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5078, the Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act. In Virginia and the larger Chesapeake Bay watershed we have already seen the Environmental Protection Agency micromanaging state and local water decisions. The EPA's Waters of the U.S. rule expands the regulatory over-reach we have seen in the Bay watershed to the entire United States while imposing even more harmful regulations on even more small streams, creeks, manmade ponds, and nearby wetlands under the agency's control.

Congress intended the states and federal government to implement the Clean Water Act as a federal-state partnership where the states and federal government act as co-regulators. This rule is just another example of EPA forgetting the Clean Water Act's goal of cooperative federalism. The EPA cannot re-write the Clean Water Act and expand their jurisdiction at a whim. Only Congress can grant that authority. Today's vote is an important step to rein in the EPA and protect the farmers, landowners, and local economies that stand to be harmed by this rule.

I urge passage of this important legislation. Protecting America's waterways is critical, but what we need are commonsense policies that will protect water quality without limiting economic growth and unfairly over-regulating local agricultural producers and economies—not more power grabs by the EPA.

H.R. 5078—WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES REGULATORY OVERREACH PROTECTION ACT

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose H.R. 5078, the Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act. I unfortunately missed the vote due to a conflict and had I been present, I would have voted "no." H.R. 5078 would prevent a proposed rule to protect clean water from taking effect and continue to give polluters a free pass.

Two Supreme Court decisions in 2001 and 2006 resulted in confusion and uncertainty about which bodies of water are subject to federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act, creating a loophole. This led the Bush Administration to issue guidance for regulated communities, but instead created the currently inconsistent, patchwork system. The proposed rule replaces the Bush Administration era guidance documents to reduce regulatory uncertainty and establish a clear process for asserting Clean Water Act jurisdiction over waters.

The proposed rule closes the loophole by clarifying federal jurisdiction to protect America's waters and does not seek to regulate bodies of water which have not historically been regulated under the Clean Water Act. In fact, the rule proposes to exclude ephemeral and intermittent ditches while maintaining historical exclusions and exemptions for agriculture. The rule also provides clarity about which wetlands are covered by the Clean Water Act. The rule would also prevent the

agencies from moving forward with any similar rule or guidance regarding the scope and enforcement of the Clean Water Act. According to a Tampa Bay Times editorial in support of the rule, "the EPA estimates that the marginal costs of implementing the rule would generate about double the return in benefits to public health, flood control and the economy."

Federal regulations to close the existing loophole and protect water quality are especially important to my home state of Florida which depends on a healthy environment for a prosperous economy. As the loophole stands, nearly 30 percent of Florida's streams and millions of wetlands are at risk of unchecked pollution and development and threatens the drinking water for 1.7 Floridians. More than 80 percent of the lakes and reservoirs that have been tested in Florida have failed basic water quality standards. Densely populated Hillsborough County, where my district is located, ranks first in Florida for miles of streams unprotected by the Clean Water Act. The rule would improve Florida's waters by closing the existing loophole. Unfortunately, this piece of legislation before us would prevent the government from cleaning our polluted waters. The President threatened to veto this legislation for good reason, noting that "this bill is not an act of good government."

Millions of Americans get their drinking water from rivers, lakes, and reservoirs that are at risk of pollution from upstream sources. In Florida, several rivers, including the Apalachicola, Choctawhatchee, Suwannee and Escambia Rivers have their headwaters in other states. Floridians are directly affected by upstream degradation to the quality of these rivers before they enter our state. Major pollution from the Mississippi River and other out of state factors have severely harmed the Apalachicola Bay and consequently the northwest Florida economy where the sponsor's district is located.

Florida's economy is inextricably linked to a healthy environment, particularly its bodies of water and the wetlands those waters rely on. Wetlands, rich in biodiversity, provide services that are critical for drinking water, water quality, water supply, groundwater recharge, flood control, recreation such as fishing, and habitat for threatened and endangered species. Florida, the state with the most wetlands in the continental United States, has already lost half its historic wetlands acreage due to degradation and continues to do so.

Florida's and the Gulf of Mexico's waters are poisoned every year by more than 4 billion gallons of oil, fertilizer ingredients and other hazardous materials. Tampa Bay, the largest open water estuary on the Gulf, is also fouled by other sources, with more than half of the nitrogen entering it coming from urban stormwater runoff that carries lawn fertilizer, pesticide residues, and trash. Pollution throughout Florida's waterways has led to record amounts of toxic red tide and algae blooms which are created by nutrients from farm fertilizers. Scientists theorize that algae and red tide have contributed to the record deaths of 10 percent of the Florida manatee population over the past year. Likely due to red tide, pollution has resulted in an unprecedented number of deaths of dolphins and pelicans.

Pollution costs Floridians billions of dollars each year. Sustainable water supplies are at risk in Florida due to the loss of natural sys-

tems. The rule is needed to restore protections for streams and wetlands across the country. Florida's economy and public health depend on clean water.

I would like to submit a list of the members of the Florida Conservation Coalition. The Coalition is composed of over 50 conservation organizations and thousands of individuals devoted to protecting and conserving Florida's land, fish and wildlife and water resources and it strongly opposes this piece of legislation.

FLORIDA CONSERVATION COALITION

Bob Graham, Fmr Governor of Florida and U.S. Senator; Nathaniel Pryor Reed, Fmr Assistant-Secretary of the Interior; Commissioner Lee Constantine—Seminole County Commissioner; Audubon Florida; Audubon of Southwest Florida; Conservancy of Southwest Florida; Florida Wildlife Federation; Friends of the Everglades; National Parks Conservation Association; Peace River Audubon Society; Sierra Club; South Florida Audubon Society.

League of Women Voters; 1000 Friends of Florida; St. Johns Riverkeeper; Trust for Public Land; Lester Abberger; John Finlayson—Former Chairman SRWMD; Bill Herr, Environmental Consultant, Former Chairman SJRWMD; Gary Kuhl, Former Exec Director, SWFWMD; Jay Landers, Fmr Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection; Sonny Vergara, Fmr Executive Director SWFWMD and SJRWMD; Estus Whitfield, Fmr Principal Environmental Advisor to 5 FL Governors.

Affiliates:

Alliance of Florida Land Trust; Alliance to Protect Water Resources, Inc.; Back Ten Feet; Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association; Center for Earth Jurisprudence; Citrus County Audubon Society; Citrus County Council; Conservation Trust for America; Coral Gables Area Democratic Club; Current Problems; Dade City Garden Club.

Defenders of Wildlife; Duval Audubon Society; Estero Council of Community Leaders; EarthJustice; Florida Consumer Action Network; Florida Conservation Alliance; Florida's Eden; Florida Defenders of the Environment; Florida Native Plant Society; Florida Federation of Garden Clubs; Florida Trail Association; Florida Outdoor Recreation Coalition.

Friends of the Wekiva River; Florida Wildflower Foundation; Great Old Broads for Wilderness; Gulf Restoration Network; Ideas For Us; Lake Area Water Alliance; Homosassa River Alliance; Martin County Conservation Alliance; North Florida Land Trust; Paddle Florida; Rainbow River Conservation, Inc.

Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association; Save Our Suwannee; Save the Manatee Club; Silver Springs Alliance; Suwannee River Garden Club; Southwest Florida Watershed Council; St. Johns River Alliance; The Conservation Fund; United Waterfowlers—Florida; Wildlands Conservation; Wakulla Springs Alliance; War, Inc.; Wildwood Preservation Society.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE AND HELPING WORKING AMERICANS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the millions of hard-working men and women in America today who are barely making ends meet, living paycheck to paycheck, and how this chamber can

help our fellow Americans by raising the minimum wage.

Last year the Census Bureau reported that over 10 million Americans work full-time and are still below the poverty line, about \$24,000 for a family of four.

In my home state of Texas, over 450,000 people are paid the minimum wage, more than any other state and account for nearly 8 percent of all working Texans.

African-Americans and Hispanics are the most likely in our country to be among the working poor. Nearly 1-in-7 black and Hispanic Americans work full-time and live below the poverty line.

Eight percent of all working women in our country, 5.5 million, are also among the working poor.

Mr. Speaker, this is simply not right. We cannot allow our country to become a place where hard work is not valued and allow millions of our fellow Americans to continue to live in poverty despite their great efforts.

This is why this chamber must bring H.R. 1010, the Fair Minimum Wage Act, for a floor vote before we go into recess.

This legislation would raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour and index it to inflation afterwards.

The House Majority has refused to bring this bill for a vote in spite of its overwhelming support among the American people. The current Congress' record of inaction and obstruction has undermined our economy's recovery and harmed American families.

This is why I urge my colleagues to demand a vote before we recess for the November elections.

HONORING THE COLORADO CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Greeley, Colorado chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) for their outstanding service to our state and nation.

Abiding by the motto "God, Home and Country," the Centennial State chapter of NSDAR has worked tirelessly over its 110 year existence to provide assistance for members of our military serving overseas and those honorably discharged. This group of women has a commitment to the veteran's community of Greeley, but also to education and higher learning within the community at large. It is an inspiration to see an organization so committed to educating our children, serving those in need, and preserving American history.

I am honored that the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution serves Colorado's 4th district. Their service resonates throughout the community. I commend them for preserving their long and storied history, and wish them continued success in the years to come.

MAGISTRATE JUDGE JOHN C. GARGIULO

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Judge John C. Gargiulo for being appointed to serve as a Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court, Southern District of Mississippi.

John graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi as a U.S. Army ROTC Graduate and was ranked in the top 10% of candidates nationwide. Upon his graduation, John was commissioned into the active military as an Intelligence Officer in the 24th Infantry Division.

While serving during Operation Desert Storm, John was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for his participation in the first combat dismounted patrol into enemy territory, as well as receiving the Meritorious Service Medal by the Governor of the State of Mississippi for his voluntary service during Hurricane Katrina.

After serving on active duty, John graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Law, receiving his Juris Doctorate, and was the recipient of the James Alexander Scholastic Scholarship, as well as serving on the Moot Court Board.

Upon graduation, John began his legal practice at an insurance defense firm, serving the Gulfport and Mississippi Gulf Coast region.

In 2000, John was appointed as an Assistant District Attorney where he was lead prosecutor for all felonies with emphasis on cases involving high-profile sexual and violent crimes. While serving as an assistant DA, John successfully tried two of America's Most Wanted criminals, resulting in guilty verdicts.

In 2009, the Governor of the State of Mississippi appointed John as Circuit Court Judge for the Second Circuit Court District. He was reelected in 2010 and served in this position until his appointment as Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court, Southern District of Mississippi in August 2014.

I would like to send Magistrate Judge Gargiulo my best wishes in his future of continued service to our Nation.

CONGRATULATING THE MORRISON-REEVES LIBRARY OF RICHMOND, INDIANA

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Morrison-Reeves Library on its 150th Anniversary.

The Morrison-Reeves Library has been a landmark in Richmond, Indiana for a century and a half. The library provides invaluable resources and services and promotes a passion for learning and reading in the community. This exceptional institution has dedicated itself to service and education in Richmond and has been an asset to area residents of all ages.

The longevity of the library would not have been possible without the dedication, commit-

ment and vision exhibited by the Morrison-Reeves Library's members and staff throughout its history. I am extremely appreciative of the efforts these dedicated individuals have put forth to diligently serve for the good of the public and set an example for all Hoosiers to follow.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in congratulating the Morrison-Reeves Library on its 150th Anniversary and thanking its employees for their continued service. I have no doubt that the extraordinary individuals who make up this great institution will be serving the people of Richmond, Indiana for many more years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF TED RADKE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Ted Radke, a dynamic leader in the community, and congratulate him as he retires after more than thirteen-six years of service to the people of the East Bay.

From a young age, Ted understood the importance of environmental preservation. He grew up learning to hike, camp, fish and hunt, while hearing stories about Theodore Roosevelt's and John Muir's adventures as early conservationists. While studying at San Francisco State University, he founded Contra Costa Ecology Action. Through Ted's continued support, Ecology Action has blossomed into an award-winning organization committed to environmental and economic sustainability. Throughout Ted's tenure, he has served in a variety of positions, including educator and public official. As an elected member of the Martinez City Council, Ted was as an active leader on environmental issues and successfully opposed the development of the Martinez shoreline.

Ted's valued advice and input improved California's environmental policies and regulations. His ingenuity, brilliance, and breadth of knowledge shaped California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which now requires local and state agencies to identify and consider their impact on the environment.

In 1978, Ted was elected to the East Bay Regional Park District Board, where he served for more than thirty years. The organization attributes much of its success to Ted's experience, leadership, and enthusiasm. During his time as a Board Member, Ted more than doubled the District's landholdings, expanding regional parks and nature reserves. He was also instrumental in the passage of Measure AA, an essential source of funding for land acquisition and preservation. In 2008, he again secured this funding through Measure WW, ensuring the future protection of our beloved parks and reserves.

I ask my colleagues to join with me today in commending Ted Radke for his committed and diligent service to the people of the East Bay. I am pleased to congratulate Ted on an outstanding career and wish him the very best as he begins a well-deserved retirement.