STATEMENT ON WEAKENING OF CLEAN WATER PROTECTIONS

Today, the Trump administration plans to finalize a rule that will dramatically weaken the scope of the Clean Water Act. This rule, to be issued by the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers, includes a new definition of the “Waters of the United States” that reverses longstanding Clean Water Act protections. The Institute for Policy Integrity at NYU School of Law submitted comments on the proposed rule and has conducted extensive analysis on clean water regulation in recent years.

Bethany Davis Noll, Litigation Director at the Institute for Policy Integrity, has released the following statement:

“Science and economics have been cast aside in the design of this rule. The agencies have conducted a hopelessly flawed economic analysis that rests on fundamentally incorrect assumptions and is sure to face a vigorous legal challenge. This rule leaves numerous waters without federal protections, and despite the Trump administration’s assertions, most states are unlikely to fill the void with their own safeguards.”

The Institute for Policy Integrity's recent analysis on these issues includes:

- [Comments](#) on the proposed version of this rule.
- An [expert report](#) from two Ph.D economists detailing the flaws in the Trump administration’s new valuation of wetland benefits.
- A [brief](#) for litigation on the Trump administration’s previous attempt to delay the protections of the Clean Water Rule.
- A [report](#) on how the Trump administration is obscuring the value of wetlands protection from the Clean Water Rule.
- Our [resource](#) that tracks the outcomes of legal challenges to Trump administration policy changes.

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*The Institute for Policy Integrity* at New York University School of Law is a non-partisan think tank dedicated to improving the quality of government decisionmaking. The institute produces original
scholarly research in the fields of economics, law, and regulatory policy; and advocates for reform before courts, legislatures, and executive agencies.