

ASSAULT ON CLEAN WATER THREATENS VIRGINIA

DESPITE THE FUNDAMENTAL NECESSITY OF CLEAN WATER, politicians in Washington are trying to dismantle the Clean Water Act, which has kept our nation's waters clean for nearly 50 years. This bedrock environmental safeguard is a central tool used by state and local governments to shield and protect clean water needed for healthy communities and families. Without it, polluted waters would threaten Virginia's local economies, communities, and way of life.

Allowing open dumping into upstream waters spells trouble for everyone downstream. Pollution dumped by industry flows from smaller streams into our rivers and lakes, across state lines and downriver, contaminating waters used by families and communities for drinking and recreation. The best way to protect clean water is to stop harmful pollution at its source, before it reaches our waterways.

If the administration's proposal becomes law, more than half of the stream miles in the United States are at risk.¹ In the South, this proposal puts at risk the drinking water sources for over 32 million people, or seven out of ten southerners.² A host of upstream waters such as smaller streams and wetlands would be at risk of pollution and fill under the proposal. Estimates show it would end protections for most of the 110 million acres of wetlands in the contiguous United States.³

WHAT'S AT STAKE IN VIRGINIA?

This proposal threatens to remove protections from drinking water sources for 200 million Americans,⁴ including the drinking water for three of every four Virginians.⁵

CLEAN WATER IS BIG BUSINESS IN VIRGINIA

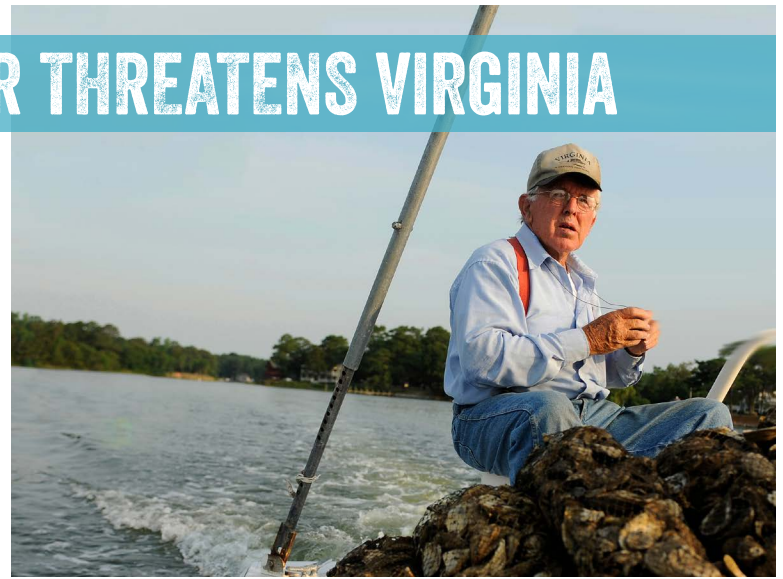
 **\$1.1 BILLION**
SPENT ON FISHING

 **\$1.37 BILLION**
FROM LOCAL WINERIES

 **\$1.37 BILLION**
FROM LOCAL BREWERIES

 **\$3.5 BILLION**
SPENT ON WILDLIFE RECREATION

Virginia's vibrant recreational industry. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that in 2011 \$3.5 billion was spent on wildlife recreation in Virginia, including \$1.1 billion on fishing, and more than 3.3 million people participated in wildlife related recreational activities in Virginia.¹⁰



Under the proposal by the administration and supported by industrial polluters, more than 55,000 miles of streams that flow into Virginia's rivers, lakes, and coastal waters would be at risk for pollution if the Clean Water Act is cut as the administration suggests.⁶

Hundreds of thousands of acres of wetlands in Virginia that provide flood protection, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are at risk.⁷

At least seventy-seven percent of Virginians get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams that may lose critical Clean Water Act protections under the administration's proposal.⁸

ECONOMIC IMPACTS FOR VIRGINIA

By EPA's own estimates, their proposal will put at risk at least \$339 million and up to \$572 million annually in benefits to Americans, including reducing flooding, filtering pollution, providing wildlife habitat, and supporting hunting and fishing.⁹

Protecting small streams and wetlands supports fish and wildlife and

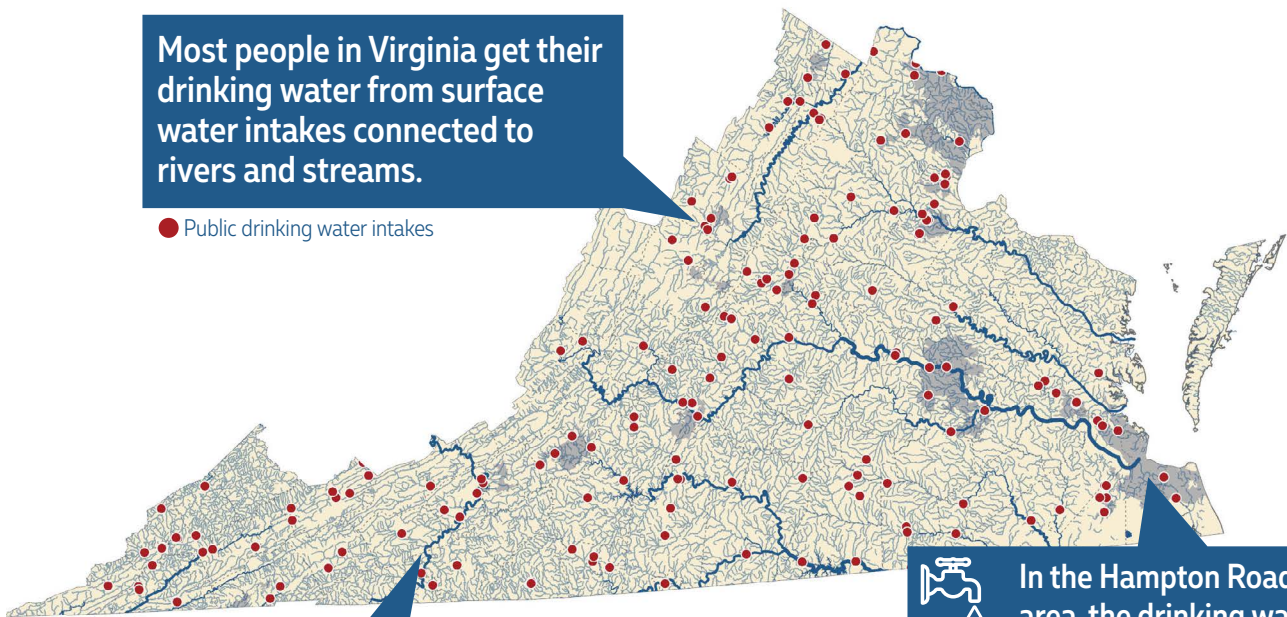


Virginia's thriving brewing and winery industries rely on clean water. Small Virginia breweries contribute more than \$1.37 billion to our economy every year and support 10,260 jobs.¹¹ Similarly, wineries and vineyards contribute \$1.37 billion, sustain 8,218 livelihoods and rank 1st in economic activity in the South.^{12,13}

VIRGINIA'S COMMUNITIES ARE INTERCONNECTED WITH WATERWAYS

Most people in Virginia get their drinking water from surface water intakes connected to rivers and streams.

● Public drinking water intakes



Pollution dumped upstream travels downstream and flows into our coastal waterways, estuaries, and the ocean, putting billions of dollars of revenue at risk.



In the Hampton Roads area, the drinking water for 1.5 million people is at risk.

For more information please visit ProtectSouthernWater.org

¹U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2013. Water: Streams. Accessed at <https://archive.epa.gov/water/archive/web/html/streams.html>.

^{2,4,5,8}Calculations from EPA Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS). 2017. Accessed at <https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/sfdwif?p=108:1::NO::> AND U.S. Census Bureau (USCB). 2017. National and State Population Estimates. Accessed at <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2017/estimates-demographics.html>

³U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2009. Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Conterminous United States 2004 – 2009. p37. Accessed at <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/documents/Status-and-Trends-of-Wetlands-in-the-Conterminous-United-States-2004-to-2009.pdf>

^{6,7}EPA and U.S. Department of the Army. 2018. Economic Analysis for the Proposed Revised Definition of "Waters of the United States". p219-221. Accessed at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-12/documents/wotusproposedrule_ea_final_2018-12-14.pdf

⁸EPA and U.S. Department of the Army. 2015. Economic Analysis of the EPA-Army Clean Water Rule. p53-54. Accessed at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/508-final_clean_water_rule_economic_analysis_5-20-15.pdf

¹⁰U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau. 2011. National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation - Virginia. p5-8. Accessed at <https://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/fhwf1-va.pdf>.

¹¹Brewers Association. 2016. Economic Impact by State. Accessed at <https://www.brewersassociation.org/statistics/economic-impact-data/>.

¹²Frank, Rimerman and Co. LLP. 2017. The Economic Impact of Wine and Wine Grapes of the State of Virginia. Accessed at https://s3.amazonaws.com/vawine-production/documents/docs/000/000/422/original/Virginia_2015_EI_Update_Final.pdf?1484704826.

¹³UT Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research. 2018. An Economic Report to the Governor of the State of Tennessee. Accessed at <http://cber.haslam.utk.edu/erg/erg2018.pdf>.