

# 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.

The drinking water for nearly 20 million people in the South and 2 million miles of streams across the United States will be at risk if the administration's proposal becomes law.<sup>1</sup> The proposed rule would allow unlimited pollution dumping in a host of upstream waters, such as smaller streams, tributaries and millions of acres of wetlands. Estimates show this would eliminate safeguards for up to 60 percent of stream miles and end protections for most of the 110 million acres of wetlands in the contiguous United States.<sup>2</sup>

## WHAT'S AT STAKE IN VIRGINIA?

This plan would remove protections from drinking water sources for 117 million Americans. This includes the drinking water for at least one in every four Virginians.<sup>3</sup>

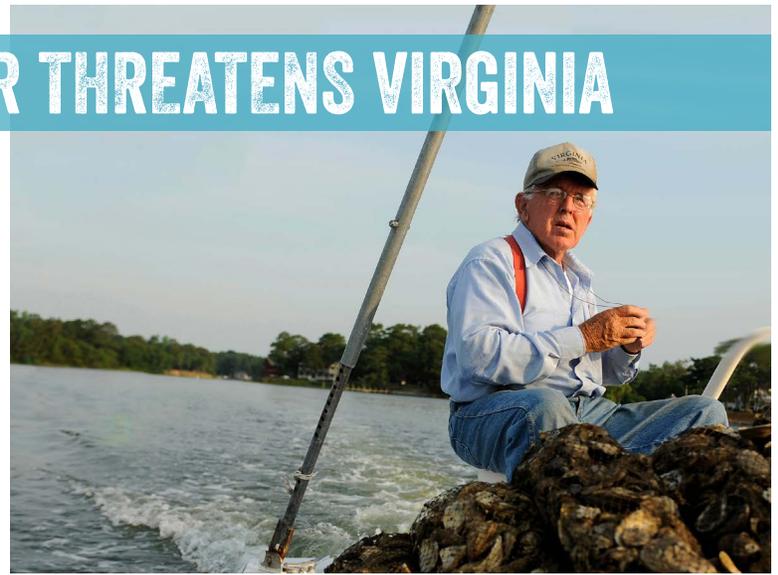
### CLEAN WATER IS BIG BUSINESS IN VIRGINIA

 **\$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



Under the proposal by the administration and supported by industrial polluters, more than 55 percent of Virginia's stream miles and millions of acres of wetlands nationwide will again be at risk from pollution and destruction.<sup>4</sup>

At least thirty 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.<sup>5</sup>

More than 5,000 miles of streams that feed into Virginia's drinking water sources would be at risk for pollution if the Clean Water Act is rolled back as the administration plans.<sup>6</sup>

Thousands of acres of wetlands that provide flood protection, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are at risk if the federal government moves forward with its plan.

## ECONOMIC IMPACTS FOR VIRGINIA

By EPA's own estimates, their proposed rule 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.<sup>7</sup>

Protecting small streams and wetlands supports fish and wildlife and 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.<sup>8</sup>

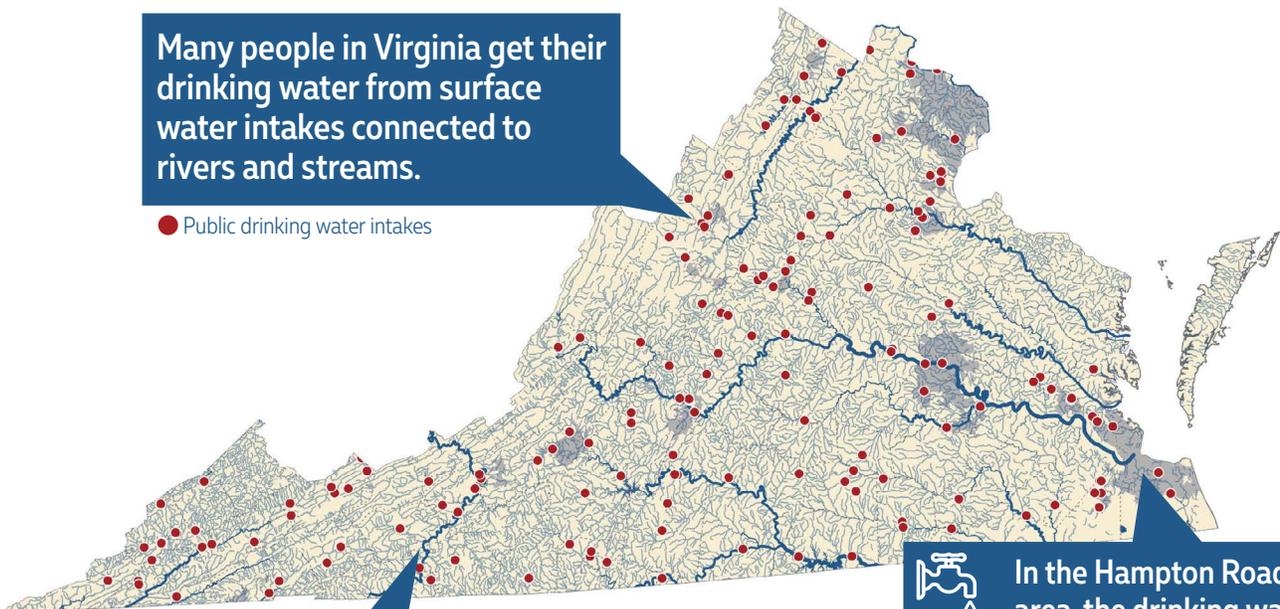


Virginia's thriving brewing and winery industries rely on clean water. Small Virginia breweries contribute more than \$1.37 billion to our economy every year and support 10,260 jobs.<sup>9</sup> Similarly, wineries and vineyards contribute \$1.37 billion, sustain 8,218 livelihoods and rank 1st in economic activity in the South.<sup>10,11</sup>

## VIRGINIA'S COMMUNITIES ARE INTERCONNECTED WITH WATERWAYS

Many 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](https://ProtectSouthernWater.org)

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2009. Analysis of the Surface Drinking Water Provided By Intermittent, Ephemeral, and Headwater Streams in the U.S. Accessed at [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-04/documents/2009\\_12\\_28\\_wetlands\\_science\\_surface\\_drinking\\_water\\_surface\\_drinking\\_water\\_results\\_state.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-04/documents/2009_12_28_wetlands_science_surface_drinking_water_surface_drinking_water_results_state.pdf). Stream miles calculated using EPA. 2013. Water: Rivers and Streams. Accessed at <https://archive.epa.gov/water/archive/web/html/index-17.html>. AND EPA. 2013. Water: Rivers and Streams - Streams. Accessed at <https://archive.epa.gov/water/archive/web/html/streams.html>.

<sup>2</sup> EPA, Water: Rivers and Streams – Streams. AND U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2009. Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Conterminous United States 2004 – 2009. Page 37. Accessed at <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/documents/Status-and-Trends-of-Wetlands-in-the-Conterminous-United-States-2004-to-2009.pdf>.

<sup>3,4</sup> EPA, Analysis of Surface Drinking Water.

<sup>5</sup> Calculated using EPA, Analysis of Surface Drinking Water. AND U.S. Census Bureau. 2010. Interactive Population Map. Accessed at <https://www.census.gov/2010census/popmap/>.

<sup>6</sup> EPA, Analysis of Surface Drinking Water.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of the Army. 2015. Economic Analysis of the EPA-Army Clean Water Rule. Page 53-54. Accessed at [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/508-final\\_clean\\_water\\_rule\\_economic\\_analysis\\_5-20-15.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/508-final_clean_water_rule_economic_analysis_5-20-15.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> U.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. Pages 5-8. Accessed at <https://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/hwv1-va.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Brewers Association. 2016. Economic Impact by State. Accessed at <https://www.brewersassociation.org/statistics/economic-impact-data/>.

<sup>10</sup> Frank, 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](https://s3.amazonaws.com/vawine-production/documents/docs/000/000/422/original/Virginia_2015_EI_Update_Final.pdf?1484704826).

<sup>11</sup> UT 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>.