

Resolution of Yamhill County Board of Commissioners Opposing Expansion of Federal Control Under the Clean Water Act.

I. WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) have released a 371 page draft regulation for Definition of Waters of the U.S. under the Clean Water Act, and

II. WHEREAS, both agencies are seeking a rule change to give the federal government more authority by expanding the definition of "navigable waters" in the Clean Water Act, and

III. WHEREAS, the rule change proposed by the EPA and the Corps would subject almost all physical areas with a connection to downstream navigable waters, including features such as ditches, natural or man-made ponds, and flood plains, to the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act, and

IV. WHEREAS, the proposed rule change, if adopted, will cause significant harm to local farmers, stall the development of businesses, take control of land used for food production out of our local providers' hands, and negatively impact County-owned and maintained infrastructure such as roadside ditches and

V. WHEREAS, the cost to our farms, municipalities and taxpayers will be enormous, and

VI. WHEREAS, it is impractical for the federal government to regulate every ditch, pond and rain puddle that may have some tenuous connection, miles away, to a body of water currently defined as "navigable", now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners hereby strongly opposes the EPA and Corps expansion of the Clean Water Act, as proposed, and be it further

II. RESOLVED, that the commissioners will hereby forward a certified copy of this resolution to Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Association of Counties, and the Association of Oregon Counties.

Yamhill County Commissioners
Stan Primozich, Mary Starrett