



Greater Phoenix
Chamber of
Commerce

July 8, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Urging Swift Passage of the “Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act” (H.R. 2018)

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, which serves more than 2,900 Arizona businesses in the metropolitan area, we respectfully request you support H.R. 2018, the Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act; a bipartisan bill reported by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on June 22.

This bill re-establishes the state-federal relationship set out in the Clean Water Act by addressing the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) ongoing regulatory overreach. H.R. 2018 provides a balanced approach between state and federal agencies in matters of compliance and certification for the management and protection of water quality in our nation. We urge all House members to vote for passage of this important legislation when it is considered on the House floor later this month.

As the Clean Water Act grants primary authority for protecting water quality to the states, we share concern over the recent action of the EPA to supersede regulation and enforcement over states with existing and effective delegated regulatory programs. Over the last two years, EPA has systematically and without cause usurped states’ authority under the CWA, questioned the expertise and integrity of state regulatory officials and asserted its control as the sole arbiter of evolving CWA permitting requirements and standards. The agency’s actions jeopardize more than \$220 billion of annual economic activity subject to Clean Water Act (CWA) Sec. 402 and 404 permits.

H.R. 2018 would help put people back to work and create new jobs so desperately needed in our community and across our nation. It would restore the proper balance between state and federal agencies in regulating the nation’s waters and protect the CWA’s system of cooperative federalism.

The Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce strongly supports this legislation and urges the full House to consider this provision of great importance.

Sincerely,

Todd Sanders
President and CEO

c.c. All members of U.S. House of Representatives