

**FILED**

OCT 26 2015

U.S. Court of Appeals  
Eighth Circuit-St. Paul, MN

No. 15-3419

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

WASHINGTON CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION; CALIFORNIA  
CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION; OREGON CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION;  
NEW MEXICO CATTLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION; NEW MEXICO WOOL  
GROWERS, INC.; NEW MEXICO FEDERAL LANDS COUNCIL; COALITION  
OF ARIZONA/NEW MEXICO COUNTIES FOR STABLE ECONOMIC  
GROWTH; DUARTE NURSERY, INC.; PIERCE INVESTMENT COMPANY;  
LPF PROPERTIES, LLC.; and HAWKES COMPANY, INC.,

Appellants,

v.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY; GINA  
McCARTHY, in her official capacity as Administrator of the ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY; UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS;  
and JO ELLEN DARCY, in her official Capacity as Assistant Secretary of the  
Army, Civil Works,

Respondents.

**PETITION FOR REVIEW**

M. Reed Hopper  
*Counsel of Record*  
Anthony L. François  
*Of Counsel*  
Pacific Legal Foundation  
930 G Street  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Telephone: (916) 419-7111  
Facsimile: (916) 419-7747  
Email: [mrh@pacifical.org](mailto:mrh@pacifical.org)  
Attorneys for Appellants

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U.S. COURT OF APPEALS  
EIGHTH CIRCUIT

## **CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 26.1, Petitioners consist of trade associations or closely held companies and have no parent company and no publicly held company owns 10% or more of the corporation's stock.

## PETITION FOR REVIEW

Petitioners respectfully petition this Court pursuant to Rule 15(a) of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure and Section 509(b) the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C § 1251 et seq., to determine the validity of a final rule defining the scope of the Act issued by respondents United States Environmental Protection Agency; Gina McCarthy, in her official capacity as Administrator of the U.S. EPA; the United States Army Corps of Engineers; and Jo-Ellen Darcy, in her official capacity as Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). The final rule was published in the Federal Register at 80 Fed. Reg. 37053 (June 29, 2015) and is entitled *Clean Water Rule: Definition of "Waters of the United States"* (the "Rule") (attached as Exhibit "A").

This rule is facially invalid and should be struck down. It exceeds statutory and constitutional authority, circumvents the proper rule-making process, and undermines state sovereignty.

There is disagreement among the parties as to which court has jurisdiction to hear this case. The government believes the Circuit Courts have original jurisdiction whereas petitioners believe the District Courts have original jurisdiction. Accordingly, petitioners filed a complaint challenging the rule in the District of Minnesota (No. 15-cv-03058-DWF-LIB). This petition is timely filed as a protective measure. *See Inv. Co. Inst. v. Bd. of Governors of Fed. Reserve*, 551 F.2d1270, 1280 (D.C. Cir 1997) ("If any doubt as to the proper forum exists, careful counsel should file suit in both the

court of appeals and the district court or, since there would be no time bar to a proper action in the district court, bring suit only in the court of appeals.”).

There are ten suits pending in the district courts. Prior petitions filed in the circuits have been consolidated in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals (Lead 15-3751 with Nos. 15-3799/3822/3853/3887). That court recently stayed the rule nationwide while it considers the jurisdictional question.

DATED: October 23, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

M. REED HOPPER

By  \_\_\_\_\_

M. REED HOPPER

Pacific Legal Foundation  
930 G Street  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Telephone: (916) 419-7111

Attorneys for Appellants

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE BY MAIL

I hereby certify that on October 23, 2015, true copies of the PETITION FOR REVIEW were placed in pre-addressed envelopes and mailed by First-Class Mail, postage prepaid, as follows:

Administrator Gina McCarthy  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
William Jefferson Clinton Building  
Mail Code 1101A  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

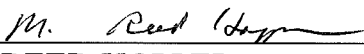
Attorney General Loretta Lynch  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Office of General Counsel  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
William Jefferson Clinton Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Hon. John McHugh  
Secretary of the Army  
101 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Assistant Secretary Jo-Ellen Darcy  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20314-1000

  
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M. REED HOPPER