



Colorado Clean Water Coalition
Attn: Ed Tauer
4600 South Ulster Street
Suite 500
Denver, CO 80237

Monday January 7, 2013

Mr. Tauer,

A passionate embrace of our environment is not only a core value for Coloradans its also major value for the government leaders of Commerce City. We take our environmental stewardship to heart, and put it into action. There is perhaps no issue where the need for environmental stewardship is clearer than in ensuring Clean Water. In this area our Colorado communities have built programs which are successful and effective.

It has come to our attention that the EPA appears ready to move forward with new, and what we consider severe, Stormwater regulations that carry a harsh financial impact on the families, business owners, and communities across the country.

Among the troubling aspects of these proposed regulations are: a specifically stated one-size-fits-all approach; the requirement that some existing businesses “retrofit” their properties to new rules, and the lack of correlation between the new rules and any new research findings showing their benefit. We believe that the added costs these rules will impose will serve as **a new tax on future jobs projects.**

New rules should only follow a locally-based study demonstrating a problem. It is not sufficient to show that there are issues somewhere in the country. Any new rules should follow a study which looks at local issues and a range of cost-effective local solutions. Its poor policy to suggest that a future study identifying issues in Maryland or Michigan would then trigger new rules in Florida, Montana, or Texas. Solutions cannot be the same for all these vastly different ecosystems.



We would like to add the City of Commerce City to the Colorado Clean Water Coalition and advocate to our representatives in Congress to work with their peers throughout the country to direct the EPA to perform the needed studies and to only implement rules which incorporate the flexibility for geographically specific and cost-effective solutions. Only with guidelines that address the unique features of a local ecosystem will our program truly protect the environment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sean M. Ford
Mayor, City of Commerce City

Cc: Sen. Michael Bennet
Sen. Mark Udall
Rep. Diana DeGette
Rep. Jared Polis
Rep. Scott Tipton
Rep. Cory Gardner
Rep. Doug Lamborn
Rep. Mike Coffman
Rep. Ed Perlmutter
Chairman Michael K. Simpson
House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies