

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**2019 Legislative Session**

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**Reference No.:** CR-13-2019                      A Resolution Concerning Clean Water Act

**Draft No.:**    2

**Committee:**    Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee

**Date:**    March 14, 2019

**Action:**    FAV(A)

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**REPORT:**

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 5-0 (In favor: Council Members Anderson-Walker, Dernoga, Glaros, Taveras and Turner)

The Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee convened on March 14, 2019 to review the resolution concerning Clean Water Act proposed roll back of federal protections under the “Waters of the United States” Rule for the purpose of expressing strong opposition to the federally proposed roll back of federal protections under the Clean Water Act and to forward this resolution to Federal, State and local leaders for consideration in their deliberations.

Legislative Officer Kathleen Canning provided background information on the events leading up to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army proposing a rule narrowing the definition of “waters of the United States.” This proposed definition would exclude ground water, wetlands, ponds and ephemeral streams from federal enforcement of environmental protections. The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on February 14, 2019, and the public comment period closes on April 15, 2019. Ms. Canning indicated that the definition will likely be reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Council Member Dernoga requested an amendment to refer to the Mattawoman and Piscataway watersheds in addition to the Patuxent and Anacostia watersheds already referred to in the resolution. The committee accepted the amendment.

After the discussion, the Committee voted favorably on the resolution as amended.