March 19, 2019

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler  
Deputy Administrator  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

We ask you to support the highest standards of water quality when clarifying the definition of the Waters of the U. S. The Garden Club of Virginia is concerned about the risks of toxic materials polluting our waterways and supports the original qualifications of the Clean Water Act of 1972 which called for maintaining the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation's waters. We recognize that the watersheds of the country's rivers and streams directly affect the health of our local rivers, bays and seas and the greater health of the ecosystems they support.

In order to protect our water resources and promote conservation and reuse, the GCV supports legislation that ensures a vital Clean Water Act. This would include reducing point source pollution from industry and sewage treatment plants and reducing nonpoint source pollution from urban and agricultural runoff, as well as improving funding for clean water programs. We also ask that there are provisions to protect groundwater and encourage the creation and preservation of riparian buffer areas, as well as to support infrastructure improvements to reduce stormwater runoff. As you know, freshwater resources are necessary to ensure the availability of an adequate supply of fresh water for ecosystems and for drinking. The government cannot afford to jeopardize the integrity of the Clean Water Act.

Sincerely,

Carrie Dorsey  
Chairman of Conservation Committee  
Garden Club of Virginia  
Richmond, Virginia