



November 1, 2015

Senator Ayotte:

The availability of clean water is very important to golf facilities in New Hampshire. The New Hampshire Golf Course Superintendents Association asks for your YES vote on the Federal Water Quality Protection Act (S. 1140) when it is brought up for consideration in the Senate the week of November 2.

This bill would require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to withdraw the Clean Water Rule and complete economic analyses, and adhere to a certain set of principles when introducing new rules.

The Clean Water Rule is a significant expansion of the Clean Water Act that will affect golf facilities in our state, as well as impact our State's jurisdiction over waters. The rule could subject any pesticide or fertilizer application near water, including ditches, man-made lakes and golf course ponds, to costly CWA permitting and citizen lawsuit provisions. Such lawsuits could financially cripple our facilities and negatively impact the environmental goodwill built by our industry within our state whether such lawsuits are found to be factual or not.

Golf course superintendents are environmental stewards who work to protect the environment. Our association supports water quality protection laws and regulations that are based on sound science and credible data and promote the values of turfgrass and professionally managed landscapes. Golf course superintendents protect water quality by applying physical, agronomic and environmental Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as correct mowing, Integrated Pest Management/nutrient management and other environmental practices. The ability to provide a healthy turfgrass stand depends on being able to use the types of BMPs that would be prohibited if EPA denies a permit for them.

We urge you to support S. 1140 and withdrawal of the Clean Water Rule because of the significant impacts it will have on our businesses and communities. The entire golf industry supports working with the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers to come up with a different rule by the end of 2016. Thank you for your support for S. 1140.

Respectfully Submitted:

David A. Ousterhout	Omni Mount Washington Resort	E.J. Chea	Pease GC
Rob Horn	Stonebridge GC	Sid Chase	Beaver Meadow
John Gabbeitt	Owl's Nest GC	Tom DiFonzo CGCS	Laconia CC
Ryan Green	NHGCSA Director	Steve Wilson	Amherst GC
Jerry LaChance	NHGCSA Director	Vincent Matics CGCS	Kingswood GC
Andy McHugh	Green Meadow GC		