

As WOTUS was written, the EPA and the Corps enjoy expanded jurisdiction under the U.S. Clean Water Act (CWA). As a result, many typical farm activities may now result in "discharges" of "pollutants," the U.S. Farm Bureau said. Such activity will put the farmer afoul of Federal law.

WOTUS tells farmers how they can use their land and imposes permitting requirements to engage in routine farming practices, which may or may not include plowing or terracing. Whether a farmer or other landowner agrees with the rule's designation, if the law stands, they must adhere to what the new law defines as wetlands, Farm Bureau said.

The more recently a farmer started farming (especially for any farming begun after 1977), the less likely the farm operation is to get an exemption for normal farm practices like plowing, cultivating, soil ripping and the like.

Farmers face fines up to \$37,500 per day for violation of the Act. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau encouraged its members in a campaign to lobby their U.S. senators from Pennsylvania. The American Farm Bureau Federation figures it has 59 votes for repeal. However, 60 are needed to make it "bombproof."

Farmers are not the only ones opposed. Associations of county commissioners, builders associations, extractive industry political action committees and township supervisors all sent people to Washington to speak against the measure.