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November 2, 2015

Senator Jon Tester
Capital One Center
208 N Montana Avenue, Suite 202
Helena, MT 59601

RE: Please Support S. 1140, the Federal Water Quality Protection Act

Dear Senator Tester:

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Montana Wool Growers Association ("Association") to request that you sponsor and vote for S. 1140, the Federal Water Quality Protection Act. Senator Steve Daines has already cosponsored this bill.

It is the Association's understanding that this bill may come to the Senate floor for a vote as soon as this week.

This bill is good public policy. If enacted, this legislation will:

- Put an end to the EPA's and the Corps of Engineers' regulatory overreach in the area of water regulation;
- Protect private property rights against the massive threat caused by the EPA's and the Corps' Waters of the United States rule; and
- Keep federal jurisdiction over Montana's waters properly limited to what is constitutionally granted to the federal government.

S. 1140 is a carefully crafted and reasoned approach. We hope you agree with the Federal District Courts that the Waters of the United States rule is a blatant regulatory overreach that, if implemented, would threaten jobs, hamper economic growth, and would disrupt Montana's farming and ranching operations by subjecting them to unfair, unilateral, and unconstitutional regulatory policies. Further, S. 1140 is supportable because the bill ensures that the primary authority for regulating Montana's waters remains in the hands of the State, and not in the hands of the federal government, as is required by Montana's Constitution.

We have been in touch with you multiple times about the Waters of the United States rule, and Montana's Sheep Industry's strong opposition as to the same. W.O.T.U.S has the potential of negatively impacting over 18 million acres across Montana, many of those acres being owned by agriculture producers. This rule puts the agriculture community in the federal government's heavy handed regulatory cross-hairs.

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Thank you for your time and attention to the content of this letter. Again, Montana's sheep industry hopes and requests that you will immediately support S. 1140.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James E. Brown', is written over a long, thin, curved line that extends across the page.

James E. Brown
Director of Public Affairs

cc: MWGA Board