NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 9, 2014
CONTACT: Brian Namey, bnamey@naco.org, 202.942.4220

NACo supports legislative action to prevent federal overregulation of “Waters of the U.S.”

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As part of its ongoing efforts against proposed changes to the definition of “Waters of the United States,” the National Association of Counties (NACo) today sent congressional leaders a letter in support of the Waters of the United States Regulatory Overreach Protection Act of 2014 (H.R. 5078).

“NACo believes states and local governments should be given the opportunity to provide meaningful consultation on rules before they are proposed, especially if they will have a significant impact on costs, operations and mandates on the people we serve,” said NACo Executive Director Matthew D. Chase.

“We appreciate the recent outreach and dialogue with the EPA and the Corps but remain deeply concerned about the unintended consequences of the proposed rule,” Chase continued. “This bill would help ensure more dialogue earlier rather than later in the process.”

In April, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers released proposed changes to the definition of “Waters of the U.S.” that would be problematic for counties across the country. H.R. 5078 requires the EPA and the Corps to work closely with states and local governments to develop a “waters of the U.S.” rule.

“NACo supports common-sense environmental protection; however, expanded federal oversight would create delays in critical work and increase uncertainty, draining local budgets without any proven environmental benefit,” Chase said. “Counties are partners with the federal government in implementing Clean Water Act programs and can provide well-informed perspectives on the 'Waters of the U.S.' rule.”

Last month, NACo released a web video urging counties to provide feedback on the proposed rule. The video is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuhvERUls7M.

More information is available at NACo’s online resource hub: www.naco.org/wous.

###

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo assists America’s 3,069 counties in pursuing excellence in public service to produce healthy, vibrant, safe and resilient counties. NACo promotes sound public policies, fosters county solutions and innovation, promotes intergovernmental and public-private collaboration and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. More information at: www.naco.org.