



## TENNESSEE FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

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June 17, 2025

Division of Water Resources  
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation  
Attention: Richard Cochran  
Davy Crockett Tower  
500 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Mr. Cochran,

The Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation (the "TFBF") represents a diversity of commodity producers across the state and is the largest general farm organization in Tennessee, as well as the largest Farm Bureau Federation in the nation with over 690,000 members. On behalf of our member producers, we are grateful for the opportunity to provide comments on the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (the "Department") 2025 Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards.

Farmers have a deep and long-standing interest in protecting the environment based upon philosophical beliefs and practical self-interest. Water quality is important to all of agriculture and our families. Second to land, water is one of a farmer's largest assets and thus crucial to their source of income. Protecting the natural environment, including water quality, is important to the agriculture industry, but it should be conducted in a manner which reasonably balances the many facets of environmental regulation.

As the Department begins its Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards, TFBF would emphasize the need for consistency in the regulatory body. We appreciate the regulations which are already in place and proven. The TFBF would further ask for any future changes to be minimal and of low impact to the farm and business community.

Stakeholder engagement is vital for regulations to be practicable, which is why TFBF always values the opportunity to engage in providing written comments on issues which impact the agriculture industry. When the proposed changes for the 2025 Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards are released, we would respectfully request additional time to provide further comment based on the way potential changes could impact Tennessee's number one industry. We appreciate your consideration of these comments and look forward to the many ways we can work with your Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Mayberry".

Eric Mayberry  
President  
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation