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We'd Like to Write Rosy EPA Letters-Letter to the Editor WSJ

The Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship was formed out of frustration with Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1-New England, and its implementation of the Clean Water Act. The [Oct. 30 letters](#) from Mayor Michael Nutter of Philadelphia and William Walker from DC Water have us wondering whether their EPA is in any way related to EPA Region 1.

Their EPA is an agency of common sense, partnership and sensitivity to economic realities. Region 1 brings us bureaucratic tunnel vision, disregard for financial concerns and a "my way or the highway" approach. We long to work with an agency described by Mayor Nutter that "understands that the path to clean water is through collaboration and partnership and by investing limited resources wisely." However, in the New England states the EPA routinely oversteps its bounds, issuing permits without appropriate scientific basis and with no consideration of affordability. Communities get permits that mandate squandering limited local resources on actions producing inconsequential environmental results while aging infrastructure continues to crumble due to lack of funding.

Affordability, cost benefit and good science must guide permitting decisions. We seek an EPA that understands that the public's money needs to be spent wisely. We seek an EPA that will evoke praise from not just the mayor of Philadelphia but from mayors across the country. Finally, we seek an EPA that works in partnership with cities rather than against them, that views cities as environmental stewards and not environmental plunderers and that is sensitive to financial hardships of cities and their ratepayers.

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