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NARA Commends EPA’s Clean Water Act Ruling for Science-Based, Sustainable Regulation

ALEXANDRIA, VA, September 2, 2025 – The North American Renderers Association (NARA) applauds the EPA’s recent decision to maintain current federal wastewater regulations for meat, poultry, and rendering facilities. This multi-year review considered stricter effluent limits for the Meat and Poultry Products sector, which would have applied to rendering operations as well, and analyses indicated that new rules could have cost the industry billions of dollars, forced closures of dozens of facilities nationwide, and put tens of thousands of jobs at risk - particularly in rural communities where rendering plants play a critical economic role.

“NARA welcomes EPA’s decision not to impose additional wastewater discharge regulations on meat and poultry processing facilities, recognizing the industry’s longstanding investments in sustainability and science-based treatment while avoiding unnecessary costs that would not deliver additional environmental benefits. EPA’s decision shows sustainability and smart regulation can go hand in hand,” said Kent Swisher, NARA President, and CEO.

Rendering facilities have long invested in advanced wastewater treatment systems and work closely with local publicly owned treatment works to ensure discharged water meets or exceeds environmental standards. Through these partnerships, the industry has demonstrated that existing federal, state, and local regulations under the Clean Water Act are effective in protecting water quality and public health.

The decision underscores the value of science-based approaches to environmental protection and confirms that the rendering industry can maintain its high standards while supporting sustainable growth. By avoiding unnecessary regulatory burdens, renderers can continue contributing to resource recovery, waste reduction, and water protection across North America.

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About the North American Renderers Association

The North American Renderers Association (NARA) represents the interests of the North American rendering industry to regulatory and other governmental agencies, promotes the greater use of animal byproducts, and fosters the opening and expansion of trade between foreign buyers and North American exporters. In addition to its U.S.-based headquarters, the association maintains offices in strategic locations around the world. NARA publishes a bi-monthly trade magazine, *Render*. For more information, visit www.nara.org.