

July 14, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As faith leaders we recognize that water is a fundamental component of all life, and that stewardship of water is part of our call to care for God's creation. We commend the Environmental Protection Agency for their leadership in drafting new guidelines under the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Rule, finalized in May, provides protection of wetlands and seasonal streams under the Clean Water Act and ensures clean water and safe drinking water for our families and communities.

As communities of faith across a broad spectrum of traditions, we understand water as a symbol of preservation, cleansing, and renewal. We have been called to be stewards of God's great creation and protecting the gifts of clean water is an important act of stewardship. The Clean Water Rule will protect the drinking water of one in three Americans; without this rule the drinking water of 117 million Americans will be at risk.

In addition to our call to be faithful stewards of the earth, our faith traditions teach us to care for vulnerable populations including communities of color and low-income communities. The Clean Water rule will protect waters in communities that have significant populations of African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic, and low-income families.

Because water is such an integral part of our physical and spiritual wellbeing and helps provide clean drinking water for all communities, we urge you to continue to protect our nation's clean water.

Sincerely,

Adrian Miller
Executive Director, Colorado Council of Churches

The Rev. Peter Sawtell
Director, Eco-Justice Ministries – Denver

The Rt. Rev. Robert O'Neill
Bishop, The Diocese of Colorado: The Episcopal Church

The Rev. Jim Gonia
Bishop, Rocky Mountain Synod: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Peter Severson
Director, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-Colorado

The Rev. Daniel Klawitter
Deacon, Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church

The Rev. Steve Goodier
District Superintendent, Rocky Mountain Conference - United Methodist Church

The Rev. Dr. Nori J. Rost
Minister, All Souls UU Church – Colorado Springs

The Rev. Anne D. Dunlap
United Church of Christ Pastor – Denver

The Rev. Selena A. Wright
Pastor, Kirk of Bonnie Brae United Church of Christ – Denver

The Rev. John Davidson
Minister of Stewardship, Kirk of Bonnie Brae UCC – Denver

Rev. Ben Konecny
Associate Minister, First Congregational Church UCC – Greeley

cc: Members of Congress