

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,

The Rev. Dr. Robert Grove-Markwood
Executive Director, The BTS Center

Rev. Dr. John Chryssavgis
Archdeacon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate – Harpswell

The Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Hastings
Chair of Mission Council, Maine Conference United Church of Christ

The Rev. Brendon M. Bass
Bethel

Sr. Anne-Marie Bourque
RSM Northeast Mercy Community

Rev. Richard Killmer
Special Representative, Office of Social Justice, Christian Reformed Church in North America
Jeanne Lewey
Vice President, Native American Church of Wabanaki Land

The Rev. Marilyn Robb
Retired United Methodist Minister, Portland

The Rev. Robert E. Ives
Director of Religion and Spiritual Life, Bowdoin College

Douglas Gwyn
Pastoral Minister, Durham Friends Meeting (Quakers), Durham

The Rev. Dr. Sarah M. Foulger
United Church of Christ, Congregational Church of Boothbay Harbor

The Rev. Katharine Hope Winthrop
Unitarian Universalist Minister, Portland

The Rev. Nancy Foran
Raymond Village Community Church, United Church of Christ

The Rev. Donald J. Rudalevige
Hope Gate Way United Methodist Church, Portland

Rev. Mark D. Wilson
Designated Pastor and Teacher, First Congregational Church of Waterville, United Church of Christ

Rev. Allen Ewing-Merrill
Hope Gate Way United Methodist Church, Portland, Maine

cc: Members of Congress