

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 gift s 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,

Rev. Peg Chamberlin
Executive Director of the Minnesota Council of Churches

Tamela K. Walhof
Director, Lutheran Advocacy – Minnesota

Rev. Jane McBride
First Congregational Church of MN – Minneapolis

Rev. Debbie Blue
House of Mercy – St. Paul

Rev. Susan Mullin
Faith United Methodist Church – Saint Anthony

Rev. Sarah Lawton
Northeast United Methodist Church – Minneapolis

Rev. Donald Rudrud
Calvary Lutheran Church – Minneapolis

Rabbi Amy Eilberg
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

Pastor Joy Smith
The Presbyterian Church of the Apostles – Burnsville

Pastor Robert Munneke
First Lutheran Church – Aitkin

Rev. Riz Prakasim
New Life Presbyterian Church – Roseville

Rev. Rebecca von Fischer
Retired ELCA pastor – Minneapolis

Rev. Adam Blons
Senior Minister, Macalester Plymouth United Church, PCUSA, UCC

cc: Members of Congress