

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. Sandra L. Strauss
Director of Advocacy and Ecumenical Outreach, Pennsylvania Council of Churches

The Rev. Amy E. Reumann
Director, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania

The Rev. Jennifer J. McKenna
Second Presbyterian Church – Carlisle

The Rev. Dr. Loren Swartzendruber
President, Eastern Mennonite University

The Rev. Dr. Steven Tuell
James A. Kelso Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Protodeacon Sergei Kapral
Holy Resurrection Cathedral – Wilkes Barre

The Rev. Dr. Debra Rogosky
*The United In Christ United Methodist Charge, First UMC, Canonsburg,
Meadow Lands UMC*

The Rev. Karl Jones
Disaster Response Coordinator, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference United Church of Christ

The Rev. Yana J. Pagan
Member of Calvary Baptist Church – Norristown

Rabbi Arthur Waskow
The Shalom Center

The Rev. Maureen Duffy-Guy
St. Peter's United Church of Christ – Orwin and Trinity United Church of Christ – Tower City

The Rev. Thomas M. Lang
New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church – Gilbertsville

The Rev. Janel R. Rice
Central Moravian Church – Bethlehem

The Rev. Inge Williams
Friedens Church – Shartlesville

Dr. Diane Guerin, RSM
Justice Coordinator, Sisters of Mercy, Mid-Atlantic Justice Office, Merion, Pennsylvania

Rev. Samuel B. Jordan, Jr.
New Gethsemane Baptist, Philadelphia

Rev. William J. Shaw
White Rock Baptist, Philadelphia

Rev. Darryl T. Canady
Rodman Street MBC, Pittsburgh

Rev. A. Carl Prince
Zion Baptist, Philadelphia

Rev. Benjamin T. Halley
Union Baptist, Allentown

Rev. Patrick Cheston
Christian Hope MBC, Philadelphia

Rev. Vernon S. Thompson
Morris Chapel Baptist, Philadelphia

Rev. William I. Ashford
Shiloh MBC, Chester

Rev. Terrence D. Griffith
Black Clergy of Philadelphia

Pamela Reist
Pastor, Elizabethtown, Church of the Brethren

Rev. Gregory Davidson Laszakovits
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Enten Eller
Team Pastor, Ambler, Church of the Brethren

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cc: Members of Congress