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*

*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
*Pastor, Elizabethtown, Church of the Brethren*

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*Team Pastor, Ambler, Church of the Brethren*

*cc: Members of Congress*