

President Donald J. Trump  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

CC:

The Honorable Andrew R. Wheeler  
Acting Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

The Honorable Ryan K. Zinke  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1100 Ohio Drive SW  
Washington, DC 20242

October 30, 2018

Dear Mr. President, Acting Administrator Wheeler, and Secretary Zinke,

As faith organizations representing diverse faith traditions, we are united across theological lines by our commitment to care for and be stewards of all of God's creation and our call to serve vulnerable communities. We believe that it is the moral responsibility of our nation, and our sacred task as people of faith, to protect our ecosystems, work for environmental justice, and address climate change.

Unfortunately, the actions of the Trump Administration decidedly ignore this responsibility. By undermining and weakening our country's ability to protect our environment and address climate change, the United States government has taken a backseat in this time of ecological crisis.

At the outset of this current administration, [faith communities outlined to the Administration](#) our shared principles of stewardship, sustainability, justice, and dialogue, as well as environmental policy recommendations that adhered to these principles. Unfortunately, these principles and policy recommendations have not been heeded. Instead, we have seen the senseless rollback of over 70 crucial environmental safeguards. With each environmental safeguard that is unraveled, our moral standing as a nation is diminished. The result is direct harm to the environment and vulnerable communities—communities that we serve and of which we are members.

The rollback of methane waste prevention rules, clean car standards, and the Clean Power Plan will increase greenhouse gas and carbon pollution. The rollback of existing Mercury and Air Toxics Standards will expose our most vulnerable communities, including pregnant women, children, people of color, and people with disabilities, to harmful toxins like mercury, arsenic, and lead. These pollutants pose serious harm to people's health, with the EPA's own projections showing that these rollbacks combined could cause the premature deaths of up to 13,900 Americans annually. Exposure to these pollutants will increase asthma and allergy attacks, especially among young children, and heart attacks, especially among seniors.

These rollbacks will also exacerbate the impacts of climate change, impacts which multiply the frequency and severity of extreme weather at home and abroad. Storms like Hurricane Florence will take more lives and destroy more property, rising sea levels in places like southern Louisiana and Alaska will displace more communities, and desertification in places like the Pacific and the Rocky Mountain regions will deplete precious resources like water.

The rollback of the Clean Water Rule will pollute community drinking water and valuable aquatic ecosystems. Weakening how the government administers the Endangered Species Act will contribute to the extinction of species and loss of cherished biodiversity. Reducing the size of national monuments will desecrate sacred spaces and weaken the economic vitality of the communities that live nearby.

These decisions are profound and their consequences will be felt for years to come, burdening future generations that we have a moral responsibility to provide for. Through these rollbacks, federal agencies are putting both American lives and the international community at risk. As faith communities we ask that this ill-fated course be reversed and that this administration return to a regulatory path that is in line with principles of stewardship, sustainability, and justice.

Sincerely,

Adrian Dominican Sisters, Portfolio Advisory Board  
Alliance of Baptists  
American Conference of Cantors  
American Jewish World Service  
Blauvelt Dominican Sisters  
CatholicNetwork.US  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Christian Reform Church Office of Social Justice  
Church of God (IN)  
Church World Service  
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Conference of Superiors of Men  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces  
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes  
Congregation of St. Joseph  
Congregation of St. Joseph Justice Team  
Creation Justice Ministries  
Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise  
Disciples Center for Public Witness  
Dominican Sisters of Sparkill  
Eco-Justice Ministries  
Ecumenical Poverty Initiative  
Environmental Justice Ministry of the United Church of Christ  
Faith in Public Life  
Franciscan Action Network  
Franciscan Sisters of the Poor  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Hazon  
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility  
Interfaith Power & Light  
Islamic Society of North America  
Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology

Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
Lutherans Restoring Creation  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Men of Reform Judaism  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Council of Churches  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
NFTY, the Reform Jewish Youth Movement  
Order of Ecumenical Franciscans  
PC(USA) Washington Office of Public Witness  
Quaker Earthcare Witness  
Seventh Generation Interfaith Inc.  
Sisters of Charity, BVM, Shareholder Education and Advocacy  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership  
Sisters of Mary Reparatrix  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Institute Leadership Team  
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur USA  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet  
Sisters of the Holy Cross  
Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth  
Sisters of the Presentation of Mary  
Sisters of Saint Anne  
Sojourners  
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
Unitarian Universalist for Social Justice  
Unitarian Universalist Ministry For Earth  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
Women of Reform Judaism  
Young Evangelicals for Climate Action

#### Arizona

Arizona Interfaith Power & Light

#### California

Franciscans for Justice

#### Colorado

Colorado Interfaith Power and Light

Connecticut

Collaborative Center for Justice

Delaware

Delaware Interfaith Power & Light

Florida

Temple Solel

Georgia

Georgia Interfaith Power & Light

Illinois

Faith in Place / Illinois Interfaith Power & Light  
Jubilee Farm

Indiana

Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light

Iowa

Iowa Interfaith Power & Light  
Sisters of the Presentation

Kentucky

Leadership, Ursuline Sisters of Louisville  
Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership

Maine

Maine Sisters of Mercy Justice Committee  
Maine Council of Churches

Maryland

Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)

Massachusetts

Jewish Climate Action Network  
Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston

Michigan

Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids  
IHM Sisters Justice, Peace and Sustainability Office

## Minnesota

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light  
Rochester, Minnesota Franciscan Leadership Team

## Missouri

Missouri Interfaith Power & Light

## Pennsylvania

Sisters of Mercy Mid-Atlantic Community  
SSJ Earth Center

## Nebraska

Nebraska Interfaith Power & Light  
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community

## New Jersey

Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment

## New Mexico

New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light  
Norbertine Community of New Mexico  
Office of Life, Peace, Justice and Creation Stewardship  
Partnership for Earth Spirituality

## New York

New York Interfaith Power & Light  
Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of New York  
Jewish Climate Action Network NYC

## North Carolina

Global Leaders in Unity and Evolvement  
North Carolina Council of Churches  
Sisters of Mercy South Central Community

## Ohio

Faith Communities Together for a Sustainable Future (FaCT)  
Ohio Council of Churches  
Ohio Interfaith Power & Light  
Province of St. John the Baptist  
Region VI Coalition for Responsible Investment  
Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania OH  
Ursuline Sisters of Cincinnati

Oregon

Oregon Interfaith Power & Light

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Council of Churches

Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA

Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, PA

Sisters of the Humility of Mary

Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network

Rhode Island

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Northeast Community

Texas

Columban Mission Center

Vermont

Vermont Interfaith Power and Light

Virginia

Virginia Interfaith Power & Light

Washington

Earth Ministry / Washington Interfaith Power & Light

West Virginia

West Virginia Council of Churches

WV Interfaith Power and Light

Wisconsin

Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin

Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross USA Province

Wisconsin Council of Churches

Wisconsin Interfaith Power & Light