



June 11, 2018

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Congressman Jim Langevin
300 Centerville Rd, Suite 200 South
Warwick, RI 02886

Dear Congressman Langevin:

In this season of budget discussions, U.S. faith organizations remain committed to protecting God's creation, addressing climate change and ensuring clean air, land, and water for our communities. As religious institutions representing congregants around the country, we maintain that funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a government entity charged with protecting God's creation and human health, and the Department of the Interior, charged with administering our nation's public lands, should remain robust.

For the fiscal year 2019 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill we urge you to ensure that sufficient investments are made in programs that protect human health and God's gift of land, air, water, and wildlife. The proposed cuts in the President Trump's proposed budget undermine the missions of both the EPA and the Department of Interior. The proposed FY19 bill being considered in the House seeks to cut recently agreed upon funding levels for many valuable environmental and public health needs.

The religious community has actively engaged for decades to protect God's gift of air, land, and water. We have worked faithfully to shed light on how water pollution, land contamination, air pollution and climate change impact vulnerable populations like the elderly, communities of color, and low-income communities. As people of faith, we are working to ensure that our children and grandchildren inherit an earth not impaired by climate change, air pollution or water pollution, and that we ourselves will not fall prey to these perils. We look to the Department of Interior and, in particular, the EPA to help us in this endeavor.

Programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the regional restoration programs should remain at their previous funding levels. And programs that support the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and National Parks should not receive cuts. Policy riders that undercut bedrock environmental laws should also not be included in the Appropriations package.

We ask that Congress fully fund the EPA and insist that Administrator Pruitt uphold his obligation to shepherd the agency so that it fulfills its stated mission to protect the environment and human health. We also ask that Congress fully fund Department of the Interior and encourage Secretary Zinke to fulfill his mandate to protect public lands.

Many Blessings,

Kristen Ivy Moses
Executive Director

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