

900 South Arlington Avenue, Suite 211A • Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109-5024 Phone: 717 545 4761 • Fax: 717 545 4765 • pcc@pachurches.org • www.pachurches.org

December 16, 2016

Senator Robert Casey 393 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, I thank you for your statement concerning President-elect Trump's nomination of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt as the next administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Based on Mr. Pruitt's record, we, like you, have no confidence that he would uphold this country's environmental laws. These laws are essential to protecting the health and welfare of all citizens. However, as people of faith, we are particularly concerned about our most vulnerable neighbors who would suffer the most from the effects of environmental deterioration—children, older persons, those already suffering from health problems, and people everywhere whose very lives and livelihoods would be affected by the impacts of climate change, contaminated water, and other human-caused environmental destruction. And while our focus is primarily on humans, we are concerned for our environment as a whole, because we live in a fragile web of God's creation, and damage and destruction to any part affects the whole.

We call on you to do what you can to prevent the confirmation of Mr. Pruitt and to encourage the nomination and approval of someone who will act in concert with Pennsylvania's Constitutional mandate—which we believe should be a global mandate—to be a trustee to conserve and maintain our environment and its resources for now and future generations.

Wishing you blessings, joy, peace, and love in this season of hope!

Sincerely,

Junduch. Than so

Rev. Sandra L. Strauss Director of Advocacy and Ecumenical Outreach

cc: Liz Hermsen Derek Miller

African Methodist Episcopal Church • African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church • American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. • Archdiocese of the United States (Old Catholic Confederation) • Christian Church in the US and Canada (Disciples of Christ) • Christian Methodist Episcopal Church • Church of the Brethren • Church of God (Anderson, IN) • Church of God in Christ • Church Women United in Pennsylvania • Episcopal Church • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America • Moravian Church - Northern Province • Orthodox church in America • Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention, Inc. • Presbyterian Church (USA) • Religious Society of Friends • Schwenkfelder Church • United Church of Christ • United Holy Church of America, Inc. • United Methodist Church