

The Honorable John A. Perez, Speaker
California Assembly
State Capital Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg, President pro Tempore
California Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for the bills in the Human Right to Water Bill Package:

AB 685 (Eng) the Human Right to Water
AB 938 (V.M. Perez) Language Access
AB 983 (Perea) Small Water System Consolidation
AB 1187 (Fong) Drinking Water Plan
AB 1221 (Alejo) Wastewater Funding
SB 244 (Wolk) General Planning for Unincorporated Communities

Dear Mr. Speaker and Senator Steinberg:

I am writing to you as a Unitarian Universalist whose faith encourages us to support environmental sustainability and human rights. As we face climate change and its impact on our shared water resources, it becomes ever more important that we clarify the human right to water and help to make it real in California.

Access to clean, safe and affordable water is a fundamental human right essential to our health, the environment and the economy. California is one of the largest economies in the world, but from 1997 through 2001, nitrates were detected above regulatory standards in the drinking water supplies of more than 11.2 million Californians. Unfortunately, groundwater pollution means that these Californians in some of the poorest communities around the state, in the best case, pay more for their water to fund expensive treatment, and at worst, end up without safe drinking water because they cannot afford treatment and have no alternative water supply. More families who cannot pay their water bills, risk losing their water service altogether and run the risk of being evicted from their homes. No family should be forced to make the heart-wrenching choices forced upon families that cannot afford such an essential resource.

The six bills which are part of the Human Right to Water Bill Package establish a right to water for basic human needs as a policy of the state of California and makes substantive changes to existing programs to begin to realize this right. This package is designed to move California forward toward a day when everyone in California can safely fill a glass of water from their tap and drink it without fear of becoming sick.

Please help ensure that these Human Right to Water bills are adopted by the legislature. This legislation is vital to local communities and will set an example for other states.

Sincerely,

Signature

NAME (Print) _____

ADDRESS _____

City,State,Zip _____