



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, March 19, 2023

Clean Water Is a Necessity of Life

“It’s hard to imagine there ever being a shortage of water on this planet, considering that the Earth’s surface is 71% covered with water... but most of that water is not drinkable in its current form....

There will always be water on planet Earth. But potable and clean water—and having it available where and when people need it (for drinking, cooking, cleaning, etc.)—is a whole different matter....

[An increasing lack of rainfall and droughts are contributors.] **But the real source threatening our access to fresh water is big agriculture and the way we produce our food and commodities!** The best way to get involved on this level is to put your dollar where it counts and support small and local agriculture where you can.” (Rob Herring, *Earth Conscious Life*, 3/13/23)

One of our bedrock environmental laws, the **Clean Water Act**, is in jeopardy. A bill recently passed in the U.S. House “would repeal federal protections for waterways that millions of Americans rely on for drinking water and recreation....

Millions of Americans rely on streams to help provide clean drinking water. But if this bill becomes law, **millions of miles of streams could become a dumping ground for toxic chemicals.**

It also threatens the precious few remaining wetlands in America. Wetlands are the kidneys of our ecosystem -- filtering out pollution and protecting our communities from flooding. But **half of America's wetlands are already destroyed**, and this dirty water bill could destroy thousands more wetland ecosystems.” (Wendy Wendlandt, President, *Environment America*, 3/12/23)

We must act to prevent this. [Take action today to defend the Clean Water Act and protect streams and wetlands.](#)

“Just last week, a new study found extremely **high levels of PFAS in freshwater fish** from U.S. waters including the Great Lakes, revealing that eating one serving of freshwater fish per year is equivalent to a month of drinking water contaminated with these harmful ‘forever’ chemicals.

As we continue to learn more about the impacts that PFAS have on public health and the environment, it is abundantly clear that **we need the strongest federal safeguards possible** in order to effectively address the scale of the issue and protect our communities and waters.... The EPA [under the Clean Water Act] must do more to protect the health and safety of our communities, waters, and environment.” (Kelly Hunter Foster, Senior Attorney, *Waterkeeper Alliance*)

World Water Day is March 22nd. Use this personal resource guide to saving water.
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/the-lazy-persons-guide-to-saving-water/>