

The U.S. Water Contract

(Source:

<http://www.citizen.org/cmep/Water/general/articles.cfm?ID=6249>)

Domestic Declaration

We declare these truths to be universal and indivisible:

Water is a common good, the trust of all humanity. The right to water is an inalienable individual and collective right. Each member of the human community has the right to water in quantity and quality sufficient to life and basic economic activities. Water belongs to the Earth and all species and therefore, must not be treated as a private commodity to be bought, sold and traded for profit.

The intrinsic value of the Earth's water precedes its utility and commercial value and therefore must be respected and safeguarded by all political, commercial and social institutions. Creating the conditions necessary to ensure access to water for vital needs of every person and every community is an obligation of society as a whole; and the collective responsibility of citizens of the world.

The global water supply is a shared legacy, a public trust and a fundamental human right, and, therefore, a collective responsibility. Only through a high degree of democracy at local, national and international levels can an equitable and sustainable water policy be created.

And,

Whereas, the world's finite supply of available water is being polluted, diverted, extracted and depleted so fast that millions of people and species are now deprived of water for life, and

Whereas governments around the world have failed to protect their precious water legacies,

Therefore, citizen organizations in the U.S. join with people around the world, to declare the Earth's water supply to be a global commons, to be protected nurtured and judiciously managed by all peoples, communities and governments of all levels.

Furthermore, we declare that water will not be privatized, commodified, extracted, traded or exported for commercial purpose and must immediately be exempted from all existing and future international and bilateral trade, investment, credit and other agreements, including credit agreements between governments and the IMF, World Bank and other multilateral banks. Because the world's water supply is a common asset, it should not be sold by any institution, government, individual or corporation for profit.

Declaration on International Affairs

Citizen organizations in the U.S. join with people around the world, to declare the Earth's water supply to be a global commons, to be protected and nurtured by all peoples, communities and governments of all levels. We declare that water will not be privatized, commodified, extracted, traded or exported for commercial purpose and must immediately be exempted from all existing and future international and bilateral trade and investment agreements.

We advocate immediate action by the U.S. government to be a party to an international treaty, signed by nation states and Indigenous Peoples, to administer the Earth's fresh water supply as a trust. Additionally, because citizens must be at the center of any decision making process, citizen organizations will establish a World Water Parliament.

Along with our partners globally we call upon the Governments all over the world to take immediate action to declare that the waters in their territories are a public good and enact strong regulatory structures to protect them from over-use and abuse. Because the world's water supply is a global commons, it cannot be sold by any institution, government, individual or corporation for profit. The IMF, World Bank and other multilateral banks should not impose water privatization on governments as a condition to access credit.

The U.S. Water Contract embodies the underlying principals of the Water for All Campaign, which is the U.S. affiliate to the World Water Contact. The campaign coordinates activities with the Blue Planet Project, an international effort by the Council of Canadians