



CAMPAIGNING TO KEEP
WATER AS A PUBLIC TRUST

Dear

CONLOG, Chief Executive Officer
CONLOG, General Manager, Dudley Miller

MEINECKE, Chief Executive Officer
MEINECKE, Managing Director, Basil Bold

ATLANTIC METERS, Chief Executive Officer
ATLANTIC METERS, Commercial Director, Nigel Ebdon

We, the undersigned representatives of organizations and individuals from South Africa and around the world, are calling upon your company to respect the human rights of all people. The right to adequate water is included in various international treaties, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Water is a human right and not a marketable commodity to which access can be determined by whether or not one can pay. The pre-paid water meters produced by your company are strategically designed to deny water to those who cannot pay. This is an outrage and a transgression of basic human rights! Pre-paid water meters were declared illegal in the United Kingdom (U.K.) under the U.K. Water Act of 1998. They should be illegal in every country. We call upon your company to:

1. Immediately end production of pre-paid water meters;
2. Discontinue all current contracts to produce pre-paid water meters;
3. Refuse all future contracts to produce pre-paid water meters;
4. End all research into new technologies to improve pre-paid water meters.

We are aware that governments and private water companies are promoting pre-paid water meters as part of the World Bank strategy to ensure "full cost recovery" and neo-liberal government policies to cut subsidies for basic human services. The public health impact of these policies is devastating. Pre-paid water meters were declared illegal in the U.K. after water cut-offs were linked to increased cases of dysentery and other diseases related to lack of clean water. Authoritative research on the recent cholera outbreak in KwaZulu-Natal province, in South Africa, concluded that its causes were linked to policies of increased cost recovery, the installation of pre-paid meters, and the special vulnerability of people living with HIV to cholera.

We call upon your company to exercise social responsibility. Please end production of all pre-paid water meters immediately.

Signed by:

Wenonah Hauter
Director, Public Citizen
Washington DC, USA

Tony Clarke
Director, Polaris Institute
Ottawa, Canada

Jamie Dunn
Council of Canadians Blue Water
Project
Ottawa, Canada

The Anti-Privatization Forum
Johannesburg, South Africa

Soweto Electricity Crisis Committee
Johannesburg, South Africa

Riccardo Petrella
World Water Contract
Brussels, Belgium

Erika Toleman
Papakura Water Pressure Group
New Zealand

Penny Bright
The Water Pressure Group
Auckland, New Zealand

Dr C. Ramachandraiah
Forum For A Better Hyderabad
Hyderabad, India

Mrs C. van Thiel
Africa-Europe Network
Netherlands

Beth Burrows
Director, The Edmonds Institute
USA

Kim Fortin
Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance
University of Minnesota
Twin Cities, USA

Torgrim Mellum Stene
Friends of the Earth Norway
Norway

Yngve Træland
Norwegian People's Aid
Human Rights House

Bergen, Norway

Marit Moe Disteler
Save the Children
Norway

George Baxter
Association Of University Staff
Water Pressure Group
New Zealand

Wellington Residents Coalition
New Zealand

Gezien van der Leest
The Dutch Grail-movement
Netherlands

Bruno Gurtner
Senior Economist
Swiss Coalition of Development
Organizations
Switzerland

Mieneke Hage
Grail, USA

Dorothy Olinger, SSND
Global Education Associates Upper
Midwest
USA

Jeanne Wingenter, SSND
Office of Justice, Peace & Integrity of
Creation
School Sisters of Notre Dame
Mankato Province, USA

Terrie Templeton
WTO Watch Qld
Australia

Alice Dougan
This Grail
USA

Scientist for Indigenous People
Berkeley, California
USA

Michael Powell
Jamieson Powell Foundation for the
Arts
Toronto, Canada

Patricia Cocksedge
Council of Canadians, Mission Chapter
B.C., Canada

David Colyer
Socialist Worker
Aotearoa, New Zealand
Robin Hoy
Reformed Church in America
USA

Sarah Steiner
Palm Beach Treasure Coast
Green Party
USA

Joanne Orengo
Social Justice committee, Unitarian
Universalist Church of Berkeley
USA

Salih Booker
Executive Director, Africa Action
Washington, DC, USA

Don't Waste Michigan
6677 Summitview
Holland, MI USA
Alice Hirt

Michael J. Keegan
Coalition for a Nuclear Free Great
Lakes
Monroe, USA

Keith Gunter
Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two
Monroe, USA

Judy Darcy
President, Canadian Union of Public
Employees (CUPE), Canada
John Iversen
President, ACT UP/East Bay
Oakland, USA

Amy Slack
Organizational Affiliation: Webster
Parish Democratic Executive
Committee
USA

Lutheran Office for Governmental
Affairs
USA

Concerned Citizens Coalition of
Stockton
USA

Arran E. Thomson
Oregon Public Interest Research Group
USA

Gopal Dayaneni Project Underground USA	Students of International Development University of Vienna, Austria	Anders Boss Holsting Enhedslisten - The Red-Green Coalition Denmark
Marianne Hochuli Berne Declaration Switzerland	Cor van den Brand Missionary of Africa, Africa-Europe Faith and Justice Network Netherlands	The United Peoples Secretariat in Denmark
Justice and Peace Network Rochester, Minnesota, Franciscan Community USA	Kristin Dawkins Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy USA	Willem Van Leenhoff VMD-Leiden (FoE-NL) Netherlands
Julian Liu Center for Economic and Social Rights New York, USA	Liane Casten, Pres. Chicago Media Watch USA	Patricia J. Ameno Chairperson Citizen's Action for a Safe Environment (CASE) USA
Tualatin Valley Water District Beaverton, USA	Anne L. Morgan The Positive Futures Network USA	Saint Peter Damian Fraternity Secular Franciscan Order USA
Lynn D. Montgomery Acequia La Rosa de Castilla, Inc. New Mexico, USA	Prairie Island Coalition Steering Committee, Bruce A Drew Minneapolis, USA	Janice Goodson-Foerde Chairperson, International Coalition for Development Action (ICDA) Belgium
Jerold Hubbard Chairman, Morton County Citizens for Responsible Government Johnson, USA	George Crocker Executive Director, North American Water Office Lake Elmo USA	Bruce McNaughton Secretary, Green Party of Colorado USA
Larry Smith Wildhorse Native American Association USA	Edgar Viterbo Plan Phils Philippines	South Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth
Judy Norsigian Exec Director, Our Bodies, Ourselves USA	Ole Klammer ATTAC Denmark	Peter Mathysen Papakura Water Pressure Group New Zealand
Mary Lampert Massachusetts Citizens for Safe Energy Boston, USA	Brian van Dam NIL Auckland, New Zealand	Joe Parrish US Environmental Watch USA
Robert Weissman Co-director, Essential Action Washington DC, USA	Kate O'Connell The Gaia Trust Lincolnshire, England	Helwegen, A. Missionary Sisters of O.L.of Africa Netherlands
Jacob Rempel President, Vancouver Kingsway Progressive Conservative Association Canada	Chris Keene Anti-Globalisation Network Canvey Island, England	Larry Hall The Alert USA
LeiLani Dowell Labor Studies Students Association at San Francisco State University USA	Pax Christi Denmark Denmark	Louise Mchunu Anti-Privatization Forum South Africa
Alice Slater Global Resource Action Center for the Environment (GRACE) New York, USA	Kim MacAulay Tatamagouche Centre Canada	Sheila Ngobese Anti-Privatization Forum South Africa
Bernhard Weidinger	Jerry Harris Networking for Democracy	Lizzy Poolo Anti-Privatization Forum South Africa

Musa Mbotha
Anti-Privatization Forum
South Africa

Sherro Ngobese
Anti-Privatization Forum
South Africa

Jacabeth Mashinin
Anti-Privatization Forum
South Africa

Xaver Brault
France

Monica
Anti-Privatization Forum, Vaal
South Africa

Miriam Lobi
New Women's Movement
South Africa

Monica Mabansa
Anti-Privatization Forum, Vaal
South Africa

Moni Christine
Soweto Electricity Crisis
Committee/Anti-Privatization Forum
South Africa

Florence Mkuwashu
Soweto Electricity Crisis
Committee/Anti-Privatization Forum
South Africa

Esther Mgiba
Anti-Privatization Forum, Vaal
South Africa

Caswell Motsewa
Anti-Privatization Forum, Vaal
South Africa

Rebeca Kholong
Anti-Privatization Forum, Riverpark
South Africa

Minah Mbazwena
Anti-Privatization Forum, Vaal
South Africa

Anna Sekoto
Anti-Privatization Forum, Vaal
South Africa

Mongi Matsimela
Anti-Privatization Forum, Riverpark
South Africa

Themba Mbele
Anti-Privatization Forum, Vaal
South Africa

Xamanai Mkuzeni
Anti-Privatization Forum, Vaal
South Africa

Selinah Sekoto
Anti-Privatization Forum, Vaal
South Africa

Sedwell Mokone
Anti-Privatization Forum, Vaal
South Africa

Thabang Setloboko
Anti-Privatization Forum, Vaal
South Africa

Nicolas Bubagna
Anti-Privatization Forum, Vaal
South Africa

Sendiswe Bynbele
ANTI-PRIVATISATION FORUM, Vaal
South Africa

Meithabatha Bam
LPNG
South Africa

Nhlanhla Vilakai
Soweto Electricity Crisis
Committee/Anti-Privatization Forum
South Africa

Moloi Joseph
Anti-Privatization Forum, Vaal
South Africa

Lawrence Manzumi
Soweto Electricity Crisis
Committee/Anti-Privatization Forum
South Africa

Jabu Dlamini
Soweto Electricity Crisis
Committee/Anti-Privatization Forum
South Africa

Rudolf Amenga-Etego
Integrated Social Development Centre
Ghana

Hameda Deedat
Irrig
South Africa

Robin D Duffy

Bobbi Nesheim
California, USA

Martha Morton

Randy Farland

Albert Hutson

Christina Pestana

Stephen Holmes

Rachel Hayes

Nancy M. Eckel

James M. Heckman

Jessica Holt

Charles Gammill

Alishia Bigelow

Catherine Coles
Canada

Vadim M. Rozengurt

Dieter Brandyberry

Marcia Hoodwin

Miles Farland

Adam Sacks

Phillip Mohorich

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Virginia Lake

Tommy Yeh

Nancy L. Johnson DVM

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Beverly Walker	Jim Head	Mike Bonfili	June Fisher, MD
Eleanor Johnson	Ben Millard	Taylor Farland	Gray Russell
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Myra Cumming	Leonard Johnson	Bruce Post	Kelley Scanlon
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Betty Smawley	Ronald Dyslin	Linda Tague	Penny Gedeon
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Fr. Phil Reed, M.Afr.	Romaine Perin	Joshua Bergstrom USA	Clare Szilagyi
Bobbi Parmer	Steven Kelk	Steve Chaput	Maryellen Symons
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Colleen Sumarah	Loretta M. Kling	Brett Pohanka	Jennifer Grantham
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Nelsen Farland	Richard Sullivan	David Palazzo	Eric Brunick
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