

To: Chairperson
Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

Date: 30 July 2026

**RE: ENDORSEMENT OF THE JOINT SUBMISSION BY THE BIODIVERSITY LAW CENTRE
AND NATURAL JUSTICE ON THE NATIONAL WATER ACT AMENDMENT BILL [B1-2026]**

The Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute ("SAFCEI") is a multi-faith environmental justice organisation that supports faith communities in caring for the Earth, advancing climate justice, protecting biodiversity, and promoting the responsible stewardship of natural resources. SAFCEI works with faith leaders, communities and civil society across Southern Africa to advocate for environmental governance that protects both people and the living world upon which all life depends.

Water is a shared public resource that is essential for human dignity, ecological integrity and the wellbeing of present and future generations. Sound governance of South Africa's water resources is therefore critical to achieving environmental justice, safeguarding biodiversity, and giving effect to the constitutional rights to sufficient water and to an environment that is not harmful to health or wellbeing.

Having considered the joint submission prepared by the Biodiversity Law Centre and Natural Justice on the National Water Act Amendment Bill [B1-2026], the SAFCEI confirms that it supports and endorses that submission in its entirety.

SAFCEI believes that the recommendations contained in the submission will strengthen the Bill by improving the protection of South Africa's water resources and water source areas, promoting ecological sustainability and climate resilience, strengthening transparency and accountability in water governance, and ensuring that the legislation more fully reflects constitutional and environmental justice principles.

Accordingly, we respectfully request the Portfolio Committee to give due consideration to the recommendations contained in the Biodiversity Law Centre and Natural Justice submission during its deliberations on the Bill.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "fde Gasparis", with a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

Francesca de Gasparis
Executive Director
For and on behalf of SAFCEI