

# IRTF

InterReligious Task Force on Central America  
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via fax: 011 505 266 7872  
Dr. Luis Debayle Solis  
President, ENACAL, Nicaragua

February 22, 2005

Dear Dr. Debayle:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, **urge you to stop the bidding process**, which you opened on January 24, **for the so-called modernization of the Nicaraguan Aqueduct and Sewerage Company (ENACAL)**. This is in direct violation of the January 18 ruling of the Appeals Court of Managua to immediately suspend bidding on a concession for "modernization." We know that you have received official notification of this ruling.

We have read your web page message stating that ENACAL is not privatizing any of its services but merely contracting a company to improve its service. However, we know that these contracts for improving efficiency always precede steps for transnational corporations to become private owners of state-owned public service companies. We are also aware that the contract is financed by the Inter-American Development Bank and that two transnational water corporations have submitted bids.

We believe that water is a human right, not a commodity to be bought and sold for profit. We have recently written letters expressing the Nicaraguan people's opposition to any type of privatization of water, including concession for delivery of that water (January 26, 2005 letter to Deputy René Núñez, President of the Nicaraguan National Assembly, and October 8, 2004 letter to Dr. Enrique Iglesias, President of the Inter-American Development Bank.)

We urge you to follow the January 18 court ruling to end the bidding process for "modernizing" ENACAL.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
Coordinator

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Ambassador Salvador Stadthagen, Nicaraguan Embassy ~ via fax: 202.939.6545  
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Senator George Voinovich, US Senate ~ via email: [Daniel\\_knezevic@voinovich.senate.gov](mailto:Daniel_knezevic@voinovich.senate.gov)  
U.S. Representatives Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email and fax

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**The following people hereby urge you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter:**