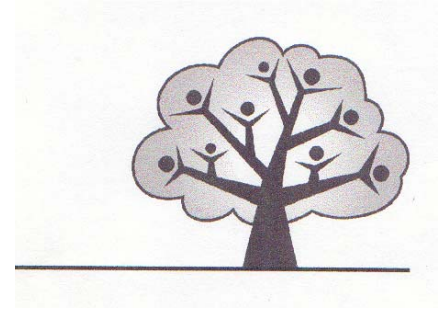


FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF CINCINNATI

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REVEREND SHARON K. DITTMAR, MINISTER



Fisher Towers in Southern Utah

photo by James Kay

February 20, 2009

Senator Sherrod Brown

Fax 216-522-2239

Dear Senator Brown:

The wilderness area of southern and central Utah, with wide open spaces, spectacular vistas, and intimate slot canyons, constitutes one of the largest remaining networks of undesignated wild lands in the lower 48 states. This special place, once described by Wallace Stegner as “a lovely and terrible wilderness, is for many Americans a place of spiritual renewal. On behalf of our membership, the Board of Trustees wants to go on record in support of America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act. We believe preserving these designated lands with the highest form of land protection is important now and particularly for future generations

America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act proposes to designate and set aside 9.4 million acres of land for safe keeping. In addition to affording preservation of wildlife and retaining opportunities for hiking, camping, scientific study, prayer, and spiritual reflection, America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act would also protect a vast array of archeological resources and places sacred to Native Americans.

Stewardship of lands and wild places that has been entrusted to our care is both a critical part of our call to protect safe and sacred places and a responsibility shared by all citizens. We, as people of faith, call upon Congress to establish this kind of recognition, giving permanent protection to this miraculous creation of open space and wilderness. We urge you, at a minimum, to support this Act, if not to co-sponsor this bill. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

In faith and justice,

Dr. Eugene Chung
Co-President
First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati