

1 [Commendation for Rudolf Amenga-Etego and the Ghana National Coalition Against  
2 Privatization of Water.]

3 **Resolution commending Rudolf Amenga-Etego and the Ghana National Coalition**  
4 **Against Privatization of Water for their commitment to universal access to safe,**  
5 **affordable water, and to environmentally sustainable water policy.**

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7 WHEREAS, In developing nations, over a billion people lack access to safe drinking  
8 water and 2.4 billion do not have adequate sanitation. Deaths continue to mount from  
9 preventable water related diseases such as cholera, dengue hemmorrhagic fever, and malaria;  
10 and,

11 WHEREAS, According to the World Health Organization, no single intervention has  
12 greater impact on national development and public health than access to safe, affordable  
13 drinking water and proper sanitation; and,

14 WHEREAS, Public control and public accountability for water are key to achieving and  
15 maintaining access to affordable water; and,

16 WHEREAS, Water privatization projects by multinational corporations have resulted in  
17 water rate hikes for consumers, and service cutoffs to vulnerable populations, with  
18 disproportionate public health and safety impacts on women, children, and the poor in Bolivia,  
19 the Philippines, Argentina, and South Africa; and

20 WHEREAS, In Ghana where running water is a limited resource, the World Bank has  
21 required the government to privatize its urban water system which would impose higher rates  
22 on individuals and not address the serious need for sanitation; and,

23 WHEREAS, In response to the privatization proposal, Rudolf Amenga-Etego co-  
24 founded the Ghana National Coalition Against Privatization of Water, a broad consortium of  
25 organizations representing health professionals, women’s organizations, trade unions, student

1 and youth groups, tenants, residents and community associations, religious groups,  
2 environmental groups, human rights groups, and academia, which has been instrumental in  
3 raising public awareness about the privatization proposal, and has united around the goal of  
4 ensuring access to water for all Ghanaians by 2008; and,

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Amenga-Etego and the NCAP of Water are promoting democracy and  
6 environmental sustainability through encouraging full participation of all sectors of civil society  
7 in water sector reform in Ghana, including thorough examination of public sector options and  
8 development of environmentally sustainable alternative proposals; and

9 WHEREAS, Rudolf Amenga-Etego's return visit to San Francisco in April will connect  
10 local and global efforts to protect safe water and the environment, will address the dangers of  
11 multinational companies privatizing the supply of water, and will educate individuals about the  
12 necessity of achieving and maintaining access to affordable water; and

13 WHEREAS, the people of Ghana and the NCAP of Water have been encouraged in  
14 their ongoing efforts and gratefully received San Francisco's expression of support in 2002;  
15 now therefore, be it,

16 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors welcome Rudolf Amenga-Etego  
17 and commend the National Coalition Against the Privatization of Water in Ghana for their  
18 continued efforts to expand access to safe, affordable water and sanitation through publicly  
19 accountable systems and environmentally sustainable alternatives in Ghana, the United  
20 States, and internationally.

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