

# America is at a crossroads. Can we find a common ground?

A CALL TO ACTION in America during a time when politics and perspectives collide.

## *Dear America: Letters of Hope, Habitat, Defiance, and Democracy* edited by Simmons Buntin, Elizabeth Dodd & Derek Sheffield

**“Action is the antidote to despair.” — Joan Baez**

Since the 2016 presidential election, America has been barreling headfirst toward a crossroads. Conflicting political and social perspectives reflect a need to collectively define our moral imperatives, clarify cultural values, and inspire meaningful change. In that patriotic spirit, hundreds of writers, poets, artists, scientists, and political and community leaders have come together sharing their impassioned letters to America in a project envisioned and published by the online journal [Terrain.org](http://Terrain.org)—the “Letters to America” series.

More than 130 works, all calls to action for common ground and conflict resolution with a focus on the environment and social justice, are collected in *Dear America*. Taken as a whole, the work is a diverse clarion call of literary reactions to the nation’s challenges as we approach future political elections (especially the one coming this November).

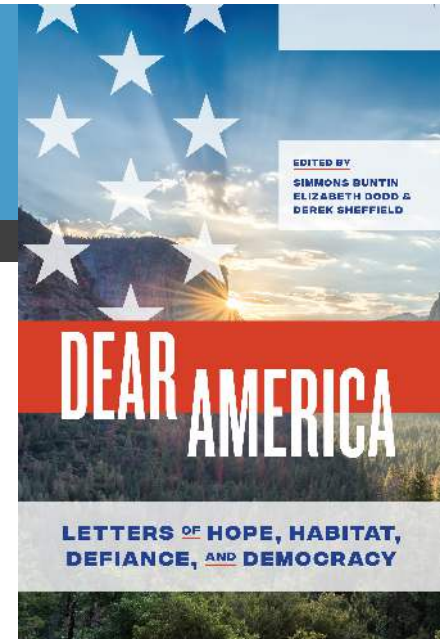
The book includes impassioned letters from experts, artists, and leaders such as Seth Abramson, Ellen Bass, Jericho Brown, Francisco Cantú, Kurt Caswell, Victoria Chang, Camille T. Dungy, Tarfia Faizullah, Blas Falconer, Attorney General Bob Ferguson, David Gessner, Katrina Goldsaito, Kimiko Hahn, Brenda Hillman, Jane Hirshfield, Linda Hogan, Pam Houston, Robin Wall Kimmerer, Karen An-hwei Lee, Christopher Merrill, Kathryn Miles, Kathleen Dean Moore, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, Naomi Shihab Nye, Elena Passarello, Dean Rader, Scott Russell Sanders, Lauret Savoy, Gary Soto, Pete Souza, Kim Stafford, Sandra Steingraber, Arthur Sze, Scott Warren, Debbie Weingarten, Christian Wiman, Robert Wrigley, and others.

**“The voices in this essential anthology are anything but silent. Indeed, they are voices of hope, habitat, defiance, and, most importantly, democracy. Lend your ears, and then your own voice.”**

**— Simmons Buntin**

- Earth Day - April 22
- Arbor Day - April 24
- World Press Freedom Day- May 3rd
- National Recommitment Month - May
- Clean Air Month - May
- Photo Month - May

**\*\*Events and town halls happening nationwide in support of the book\*\***



### BOOK DETAILS

**Paperback:** 320 pages

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*Dear America* encourages readers to come to a common resolution about the environment and social injustice going on in America through words of literature and art.

**Book royalties will benefit:**

- American Civil Liberties Union
- Nat'l Resources Defense Council
- Union of Concerned Scientists

## TALKING POINTS

- **How it got started:** Dear America brings Americans together from across the country and all walks of life
- **2020 Presidential election:** How the outcome will effect our country from multiple points of view
- **Climate Change:** Hear from members of the Union of Concerned Scientists
- **Excerpts/Interviews:** Diverse writers from the fields of science, politics, social justice, education, art, and the literary community are available for interview and their work available for excerpt
- **Available for interview/excerpt:** Contributor **Pete Souza**, bestselling author and official photographer for the Obama and Reagan administrations.
- **Available for interview/excerpt:** Contributor **Attorney General Bob Ferguson** holds the most successful legal record in the country against Trump
- **Available for interview/excerpt:** Letters/poetry from Pulitzer Prize winner **Elizabeth Rush** and National Book Award winner **Arthur Sze** and finalist **Jericho Brown**

## ABOUT THE EDITORS

[Terrain.org](http://Terrain.org) is a nonprofit literary magazine published online since 1997 that searches for the interface—the integration—among the built and natural environments that might be called the soul of place. The works published by [Terrain.org](http://Terrain.org) ultimately examine the physical realm around us, and how those environments influence us and each other physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

**Simmons Buntin**, is editor-in-chief of [Terrain.org](http://Terrain.org). He has authored 2 books of poetry, *Riverfall* and *Bloom*, and also *Unsprawl: Remixing Spaces as Places* (co-authored with Ken Pirie). He has published poetry, essays, and technical articles in publications as varied as *Edible Baja Arizona*, *North American Review*, *Kyoto Journal*, and *Bulletin of Science, Technology, and Society*. He has a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Colorado, Denver, and an MFA in creative writing from the University of Arizona. Simmons lives in Tucson, Arizona.

**Elizabeth Dodd** is a poet and nonfiction writer. Her newest book, *Horizon's Lens: My Time on the Turning World*, was published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2012. For over two decades she has lived in eastern Kansas in the Flint Hills region, where she is an award-winning professor of creative writing and literature at Kansas State University.

**Derek Sheffield** has presented widely at conferences around the West on the interaction between science and poetry. His own work often explores this topic and has appeared in *Orion*, *Wilderness*, *Poetry*, *The Georgia Review*, *The Southern Review*, *Ecotone*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, and *Southern Humanities Review*, and several anthologies, including *New Poets of the American West*, *The Ecopoetry Anthology*, *Nature and Environmental Writing: A Guide and Anthology*, and *The World Is Charged: Poetic Engagements* with Gerard Manley Hopkins. Since 2003, he has been a professor of English at Wenatchee Valley College in central Washington.

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