



Seeking common ground, working for the common good

March 24, 2016

Rev. Richard L Killmer
PO Box 370
Yarmouth, ME 04096

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Presbyterian (PCUSA)

Dear Rich,

Please convey the thanks of the Maine Council of Churches to Senator Susan Collins for her letter to Republican Senators regarding the Green Climate Fund. Our nine member denominations and the nearly 600 congregations under their care across the state of Maine are deeply grateful for her leadership on the issue of climate justice.

The Council has a long history of working to protect the fragile earth placed in our care by the Creator, and to advocate on behalf of the poorest of the poor who are often most severely affected by climate change. All nine of our member denominations have strong national policies supporting environmental protection and urging leaders at every level to take steps to address the root causes of climate change.

We, along with the World Council of Churches, recognize that the effects of climate change disproportionately affect the poor, marginalized and therefore most vulnerable populations, including indigenous peoples. When those who have done the least to cause climate change are the ones hardest hit, it becomes an issue of injustice.

The Green Climate Fund, by supporting developing countries as they reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and repair the damage already done by climate change, takes an important step toward justice for "the least of these" our brothers and sisters. We rejoiced when President Obama pledged \$3 billion to the Green Climate Fund, and when the first installment of \$500 million was sent. But we are dismayed that the next installment is being opposed by Republican senators.

We thank Senator Collins for her efforts to persuade her colleagues in the Senate to cease their opposition and instead support the U.S. honoring its pledge to the Green Climate Fund.

Sincerely,

Rev. Jane Field
Executive Director