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Religious Leaders Praise Efforts to Address Climate Change and Seek Climate Justice  
Proposed Carbon Standards for Power Plants Are Important Step Forward

Washington DC – Creation Justice Ministries and religious leaders around the country are commending the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) latest efforts to prevent the worst impacts of climate change. A proposed rule released today that would set limits on carbon dioxide emissions from power plants is a vital component of global efforts to reduce emissions and address this moral issue.

As noted in the recently released National Climate Assessment, the United States is already feeling the impacts of climate change. Low-income families, communities of color, and other vulnerable populations are suffering and will continue to suffer if the United States, in partnership with other nations, fails to implement an effective and timely response to global climate change.

“Climate change is one of the defining moral issues of our time” noted Tyler Edgar, Executive Director of Creation Justice Ministries. “We look forward to working with the EPA and state and local governments to finalize and implement this proposed rule in a way that ensures justice, stewardship, sustainability, and sufficiency for all of God’s creation.”

For more than twenty years, Creation Justice Ministries (formerly the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program) has sought a comprehensive response to climate change. Religious leaders affiliated with Creation Justice Ministries are also celebrating the EPA’s proposal. Comments and quotes from various religious leaders are included below.

*The Episcopal Church understands care for the earth, ‘our fragile island home,’ as foundational to the human family’s relationship with God and God’s creation. High levels of carbon dioxide from power plants place enormous strain on the integrity and wellbeing of the earth and the human family, contributing to climate shifts that threaten the health, welfare, security, and sanctity of the world God so loves. The Episcopal Church commends the Environmental Protection Agency for taking a crucial step toward safeguarding human communities and the earth for generations to come.*

- ***Alexander D. Baumgarten, Director of Government Relations for the Episcopal Church***

*For people of faith, climate change is a justice issue, and the proposed carbon rule is an important step towards helping to ensure a just and sustainable world for generations to come.*

- ***The Reverend Stacy Martin, Director for Advocacy, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America***

*“I applaud the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for taking this necessary step toward regulating carbon pollution from power plants. For too long we have been paying an artificially low price for the luxury of burning fossil fuels and for the privilege of polluting God’s earth and poisoning its*

*atmosphere. The true cost of burning fossil fuel is not reflected in the price we pay at the pump or the electric meter. The true cost of carbon pollution is nothing less than human, social, and environmental degradation of the Creation with which God has gifted us. In the PC(USA), we will continue to advocate and organize for a day when the U.S. takes full responsibility for our reckless thirst for oil and gas and begins to curb our emissions through increased energy efficiency, renewable energy, and yes, economy-wide measures to curb greenhouse gas emissions. In the meantime, I applaud the EPA's action. I hope and pray that it is the beginning of an important movement toward eco-justice at the U.S. government level."*

- ***The Reverend J. Herbert Nelson, Director for Public Witness, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)***

*Religious communities across the US are uniting in the vision to protect God's Creation, including those living in poverty here and around the world, from the worst impacts of climate change. We ask that utilities join us to find ways to reduce carbon and other harmful air pollutants from our air so that we can protect human health and all of God's Creation.*

- ***Cassandra Carmichael, Executive Director, National Religious Partnership for the Environment***

*Creation Justice Ministries is the national ecumenical voice for creation care and environmental justice. Creation Justice Ministries' members include Christian communions from the Protestant, Orthodox, Evangelical, historic African American, and Living Peace churches.*