

November 30, 2015

President Barack H. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We come from different faith traditions, united across theological lines by our deep concern for humanity and all of God's creation. Guided by shared principles of stewardship, compassion and justice, we join together to call on you, our elected leaders, to address the impacts of climate change on our most vulnerable brothers and sisters, and to protect creation through support of a global agreement on climate change.

Climate change presents an unprecedented threat to all of creation, but most particularly to those living in poverty around the globe. We already witness the impacts of climate change in rising sea levels that threaten small island states, long term drought and other weather extremes that impact the food security and political stability of Least Developed Nations, and melting glaciers that put at risk water supplies for major cities in the Global South. All of these impacts fall hardest on those with the least means to adapt—people and communities already struggling with poverty and hunger, who are also the least responsible for the greenhouse gas emissions causing earth's climate to change.

Our faiths make clear that we must act together for the common good of all vulnerable people and the future of the earth. Many of our congregations are already acting to be better stewards of energy in their facilities. We are prepared to do our part and to support efforts to move rapidly to clean energy and away from fossil fuels. As Pope Francis noted in his recent encyclical addressing all humanity, we each must concern ourselves with the fate of our common home, and “cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.”

We call on you to embrace this common responsibility as work continues toward a global agreement on climate change. We urge you to support an ambitious agreement at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change conference of parties in Paris this December that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, encourages development of low carbon technologies, and assists populations most vulnerable to the effects of a changing climate.

Specifically, we seek an outcome in Paris that:

- requires all nations to work to phase out energy sources that contribute to climate change and phase in more sustainable, renewable sources of energy;
- requires all nations to improve their nationally determined goals for emissions reductions at frequent intervals, in order to account publicly for their progress and to increase ambition as needed;

- includes a strong commitment to help the most vulnerable countries adapt to climate change, and support for mechanisms to help them to build resilience and minimize and manage risks and losses; and
- includes concrete pledges from the wealthiest countries to increase necessary financial support, technology transfer and capacity building for the most vulnerable countries such as small island states and Least Developed Nations.

People living in poverty around the world have contributed least to the phenomenon of climate change, yet are most impacted by it. Our nation of great wealth and influence has contributed much to the problem of climate change. Our nation has the moral responsibility to address the harmful impacts of climate change upon the most vulnerable peoples and to secure the future of all of creation. This is also our sacred task as people of faith. We pray that you will use your leadership role to act together in solidarity with God's earth and in hope for our shared future.

Sincerely,

National Leaders

Ervin R. Stutzman, Executive Director, Mennonite Church USA
 Marcia Allen, CSJ, President, Leadership Conference of Women Religious
 Shantha Ready Alonso, Executive Director, Creation Justice Ministries
 Bishop Carroll Baltimore, Global United Fellowship
 Rev. Sally Bingham, President and Founder, Interfaith Power & Light
 J. Ron Byler, Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Executive Director
 Simone Campbell, SS, NETWORK Lobby
 Cassandra Carmichael, Executive Director, National Religious Partnership for the Environment
 Patrick Carolan, Executive Director, Franciscan Action Network
 Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe, General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church
 Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 Rev. Fletcher Harper, Executive Director, GreenFaith
 Rev. Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
 Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, Senior Vice President, Union for Reform Judaism
 Dr. Steven R. Timmermans, Executive Director, Christian Reformed Church in North America
 Scott Wright, Director, Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
 Ruth Messinger, President, American Jewish World Service
 Sister Mary Ann Smith, Social Concerns, Maryknoll Sisters, Eastern & Western USA Regions

State Leaders

Rev. Alison Cornish, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light
 Rev. Jane Field, Executive Director, Maine Council of Churches
 Rev. Steve Copley, Board Chair, Arkansas IPL
 Hoosier IPL - Larry Kleiman, executive director
 Rev. Andy Bell, board member, Sunshine State IPL
 Vincent Maravenatno, MDiv., JD, Executive Director, Massachusetts IPL
 Dr. Julia Nerbonne, Executive Director, Minnesota IPL
 Tracey Koch, Coordinator, Missouri IPL

Deacon Jerry Kotas, board member, Colorado IPL
Sara Ward, Executive Director, Ohio IPL
Rev. Susan Guy, Executive Director, Iowa IPL
LeeAnne Beres, Executive Director, Washington IPL
Susan Soleil, Executive Director, Utah IPL
John Sykes, board member, Delaware IPL
Sister Joan Brown, Executive Director, New Mexico IPL
Janna Stieg Watkins, Executive Director, New York IPL
Bee Moorhead, Executive Director, Texas IPL
Rev. Doug Bland, Executive Director, Arizona IPL
Donna Childs, Executive Director, Rhode Island IPL
Rev. Kim Morrow, Executive Director, Nebraska IPL
Rev. Kate McGregor Mosley, Executive Director, Georgia IPL
Rev. Dele, interim board chair, Virginia IPL
Susannah Tuttle, Executive Director, North Carolina IPL
Rev. Brian Sauder, Executive Director, Illinois IPL
Joelle Novey, Executive Director, Greater Washington IPL
Rev. John Helt, Board President, Wisconsin IPL
Sam Swanson, President, Board of Directors, Vermont IPL
Louise Gorenflo, Executive Director, Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light