

April 11, 2016

Dear Member of Congress,

We write to you as communities of faith to ask your support for the U.S. pledge to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the President's FY2017 budget request of \$750 million for the GCF.

**We come from different faith traditions, united across theological lines by our deep concern for humanity and all of God's Creation.** We are guided by principles of stewardship, compassion and justice in confronting the moral crisis of our changing climate. The Green Climate Fund represents an important step in global cooperation needed to build a more resilient world and to move us along the path toward a low carbon future.

Our scriptures and religious texts call us to care for God's creation and our most vulnerable neighbors. We believe that climate change presents an unprecedented threat to all of Creation, but particularly to those living in poverty around the world.

**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 Countries, and melting glaciers that threaten the water supplies of 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.

**The Green Climate Fund (GCF) represents a new way forward in climate finance to build resilience and stability in the face of the unavoidable impacts of climate change.** The core purpose of the GCF is to build the capability of developing nations to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through low carbon development pathways and to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

To fulfill this purpose, the GCF is designed to be innovative, accountable, and compassionate. It is an independent entity with strong fiduciary standards. It is accountable to a board of directors with representatives from donor and recipient countries, including the United States. It includes high levels of transparency and accountability in its structure and governing principles to ensure proper use of its funds.

**We are particularly heartened that half of the GCF funds are dedicated to adaptation needs, and with priority given to African nations, small island states, and Least Developed Countries (LDCs),** the GCF represents a major commitment by the global community to help vulnerable nations build resilience to climate impacts. Such resilience will increase political stability and protect humble livelihoods of fishing and farming communities, with positive implications for related issues including migration and national security.

The GCF also builds on lessons learned from the World Bank's Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) and other international funds that have previously supported clean energy development and climate compatible development. Notably, the GCF's design allows for the use of innovative financial

instruments to tap the power of the private sector –including leading American companies – to help address climate change.

More than \$10 billion in funding pledges for the GCF to date have come from countries representing diverse regions and income levels. In addition to the U.S. pledge of \$3 billion, Germany, Japan, South Korea, France, Colombia, Peru, and Mexico are among the donors, demonstrating a global commitment among developed and developing countries to address climate change.

**We fully support the President’s request for \$750 million for the GCF in FY2017 budget** to continue efforts to build critical climate resiliency in states that are already facing eroded shorelines, super storms and longer periods of drought. The GCF’s first set of eight projects were approved in December to build climate resilience for millions of people in vulnerable states including Bangladesh, Fiji, Malawi, and Central America. As we recently witnessed the impacts of Hurricane Winston in Fiji, we are reminded of how fragile existence is in countries with fewer resources than our own.

This investment in mitigation and adaptation is our moral obligation as a major contributor to climate change. It is also a sound investment in alleviating poverty, ensuring food security and building stability now and into the future. Fulfilling our commitments to the GCF also strengthens our credibility, trust, and leadership in the international community.

**Addressing the harmful impacts of climate change upon the most vulnerable peoples and the future of all God’s creation is the moral responsibility of our nation, and our sacred task as people of faith. We hope you will use your leadership role to support the U.S. pledge to the Green Climate Fund.**

Sincerely,

National Organizations/Denominations:

Adorers, U.S. Region  
Adventist Development and Relief Agency  
Alliance of Baptists  
American Baptist Churches in the USA  
American Jewish World Service  
Bread for the World  
Catholic Climate Covenant  
Catholic Relief Services  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Church World Service  
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Conference of Major Superiors of Men  
Creation Justice Ministries  
Disciples Center for Public Witness  
The Dominican Sisters of Hope  
Ecumenical Catholic Communion

The Episcopal Church  
Evangelical Environmental Network  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs  
Franciscan Action Network  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Green Muslims  
GreenFaith  
Interfaith Power & Light  
Islamic Relief USA  
Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
The Justice & Witness Ministries of The United Church of Christ  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
Lutheran World Relief  
Lutherans Restoring Creation  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office  
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Office of Social Justice, Christian Reformed Church in North America  
The Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Rabbinical Assembly  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
Reformed Church in America  
School Sisters of Notre Dame Cooperative Investment Fund  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Institute Justice Team  
Society of St Ursula – American Region  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
United Methodist Caretakers of God's Creation  
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
Women of Reform Judaism  
Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc  
Young Evangelicals for Climate Action

State/Regional Organizations:

Arizona Interfaith Power & Light  
Arkansas Interfaith Power & Light  
Buffalo Diocese Care for Creation Committee  
Charleston Jewish Federation

Colorado Interfaith Power & Light  
Community Relations Committee of Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ  
Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley  
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families  
Delaware Interfaith Power & Light  
Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light  
Faith Action Network – WA State  
Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (VA)  
Faith in Place, the Illinois Affiliate of Interfaith Power & Light  
Flint Jewish Federation  
Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph  
Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement  
Georgia Interfaith Power & Light  
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart Earth Committee  
Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light  
Interfaith Climate Justice Community of Western New York  
Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)  
Iowa Interfaith Power & Light  
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (VA, DC)  
Jewish Community Relations Council of New Haven Connecticut  
Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Collier County (FL)  
Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte  
Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines  
Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia  
Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass, KY  
Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities (IL)  
Jubilee Bay Area  
Jubilee Oregon  
Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light  
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania  
Maine Council of Churches  
Maine Interfaith Power & Light  
Massachusetts Council of Churches  
Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light  
Michigan Interfaith Power & Light  
Milwaukee Jewish Federation  
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light  
Nebraska Interfaith Power & Light  
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light  
New York Interfaith Power & Light  
North Carolina Council of Churches  
North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light

Oklahoma Interfaith Power & Light  
Oregon Interfaith Power & Light  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting  
Racine Dominicans  
Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light  
Savannah Jewish Federation and Jewish Educational Alliance, Savannah GA  
Sisters of Charity of New York  
Sisters of O.L. of Christian Doctrine  
Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell, NJ  
SS Peter and Paul Care for Creation Committee, Hamburg, N.Y.  
Sunshine State Interfaith Power & Light  
Tennessee Interfaith Power & Light  
Texas Interfaith Power & Light  
Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment  
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice in the National Capital Region  
Utah Interfaith Power & Light  
Vermont Interfaith Power & Light  
Virginia Council of Churches  
Virginia Interfaith Power & Light  
Wisconsin Green Muslims  
Wisconsin Interfaith Power & Light