FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

One Hundred and Twenty-One Religious Communities Representing Tens of Millions of Americans Urge Congress to Support the Green Climate Fund

Washington, DC – April 11, 2016 – Today, 121 religious traditions and organizations across the nation representing tens of millions of Americans – including the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the National Council of Churches, and the Evangelical Environmental Network – delivered a <u>letter</u> to the U.S. Congress, urging their support for the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The letter asks Congress to appropriate \$750 million for GCF for Fiscal Year 2017 based on the Administration's request.

Many churches as well as religious relief and development ministries work on the front lines with impoverished communities to cope with the damage caused by climate change. Half of the Green Climate Fund is dedicated to the adaptation needs of nations and peoples vulnerable to the climate impacts. Additional priority is given to the least developed countries and small island developing States. For example, one of the GCF-approved 8 projects is in Bangladesh, a nation already impacted by sea level rise, to build shelters and other infrastructure to protect over 130,000 people from coastal flooding. Such projects build community stability to prevent dislocations and migrations that impact the economic and political security of all nations.

The religious traditions and organizations on this letter to Congress are united in our deep concern for humanity and all of God's Creation. They view the Fund as an important step in global cooperation and compassion to serve the most vulnerable peoples. They call upon Congress to appropriate \$750 million to the Green Climate Fund for Fiscal Year 2017, ensuring our commitment to a global partnership to build a more resilient, sustainable and secure world.

For a list of quotes from religious leaders on the release of the letter, please click here.

Contacts:

- The Rev. Mitchell C. Hescox, President & CEO, Evangelical Environmental Network 717-578-2063 | mitch@creationcare.org
- Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb, Chair, Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life,
 Jewish Council of Public Affairs, 301-767-3333 | fred.dobb@adatshalom.net
- Shantha Ready Alonso, Executive Director, Creation Justice Ministries
 760-408-0688 | shantha@creationjustice.org
- Eric Garduño, Senior Policy and Legislative Specialist, Catholic Relief Services 202-548-2943 | eric.garduno@crs.org
- Susan Stephenson, Executive Director, Interfaith Power & Light 415-561-4891 | <u>susan@theregenerationproject.org</u>
- Jose Aguto, Legislative Secretary, Sustainable Energy & Environment,
 Friends Committee on National Legislation, 202-553-7202 | jose@fcnl.org