

Dear Member of Congress:

As Black Church leaders, we have seen for ourselves how climate change hits African American communities in a particularly harsh way, whether through severe weather events like Hurricane Katrina or through the negative impact on air and water quality that disproportionately affects Black Americans. Right now, justice demands a solicitous effort by Congress to help Black communities become more resilient and to correct the injustices that made them vulnerable and voiceless in the first place.

As we recover from the pandemic and look towards investment in infrastructure we know that any such policy must address climate change and be built on justice and equity. As leaders in the Black Church, we urge you to acknowledge the climate-related suffering of Black Americans and enact infrastructure and energy policy that:

- Offsets the disproportionate impact of climate change on Black communities;
- Helps Black communities become more climate resilient;
- Provides the financial support needed to equip Black communities for a major energy transition, so they are not left behind to suffer further harm and injury; and
- Respects subsidiarity by including Black people in the development and implementation of solutions in their own communities.

We urge you to invest in climate solutions in the budget reconciliation package that avoid watered-down compromises that don't care for the people you are called to serve. The question of *how* we invest in climate friendly infrastructure is just as important as the question of *whether* to invest at all.

We are grateful for your commitment to reimagine and rebuild our economy in this critical moment in our nation's history. When faced with a crisis such as the one brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, we must hear and answer the cry of those impacted the most instead of seeking to preserve the status quo at all costs. The effort on your part to create and negotiate bold infrastructure and energy policy gives us great hope that our country is on the path to a different future that includes everyone.

Sincerely,

Bishop E. Gardin, Jr, Elizabeth Missionary Baptist, Monroe
Dr. Abdue Knox, Greater Bethel AME, Charlotte
Dr. Albert Lee, Ebenezer Baptist, Wilmington
Dr. Benjamin Hinton, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Gastonia
Dr. Billy Casey, Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, Oakboro
Dr. Carl Brinkley, Jr., Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, Fayetteville
Dr. Carozell Henry, Crystal Spring, Leland
Dr. Cathy Jones, Parkwood Institutional CME, Charlotte
Dr. Claude R. Alexander, Jr., University Park Baptist Church/The Park Church, Charlotte
Dr. Clifford A. Jones, Sr., Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte
Dr. Clifton Harris, Jr, Prince Chapel CME, New Hill
Dr. Dennis Leach, Morning Star Baptist Church, Winston-Salem
Dr. Gregory Busby, McClintock Presbyterian, Charlotte

Dr. Jamaal Edwards, Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Forest City
Dr. James F. Linville, Piney Grove Baptist Church, Winston-Salem
Dr. Jerry Cannon, C.N. Jenkins Presbyterian, Charlotte
Dr. Joe L. Stevenson, Macedonia New Life Church, Raleigh
Dr. John D. Fuller, Sr., Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Fayetteville
Dr. Kendall D. Jones, Sr., New Bethel Baptist Church, Winston-Salem
Dr. Larry Hill, Woodland Presbyterian, Charlotte
Dr. Leonard Frieson, Sr., Brookston Missionary Baptist Church, Henderson
Dr. Leonzo D. Lynch, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Charlotte
Dr. Louis Hackett, Garland First Baptist, Garland
Dr. M. L. Kaufman, Nicey Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Wingate
Dr. Michael A. Stevens, Sr., City Church COGIC, Huntersville
Dr. Michael Robinson, The Fellowship Mission, Charlotte
Dr. Nilous Avery, II, General Baptist State Convention of NC, Inc., Raleigh
Dr. Osco E. Gardin, Jr., Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church, Monroe
Dr. Ricky A. Woods, First Baptist Church - West, Charlotte
Dr. Ricky L. Banks, St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, Elizabeth City
Dr. Roosevelt Baxter, Jr., Mount Calvary #2 Baptist, Wilmington
Dr. Sandra Gripper, Faith CME, Charlotte
Dr. Theodore Armstrong IV, Springfield Memorial Baptist Church, Stanley
Dr. Timothy R. Williams, Yadkin Star Baptist Church, Lexington
Dr. William Pegues, Reid Memorial CME, Greensboro
Elder Christopher A. Stone, Unity Worship Center COGIC, Burlington
Elder Ernest A. Perry, Beth'El Word COGIC, Jacksonville
Elder James Tharrington, Successful Life Word Ministries International COGIC, High Point
Elder James Tharrington, Evangel Reidsville COGIC, Reidsville
Elder Jimmy Bention, Sr, Temple C.O.G.I.C, Rockingham
Elder Ronald Roland, Chapel of Peace COGIC, Holly Ridge
Elder Wil Nichols, Victorious Praise COGIC, Durham
H. E. Edwards, Shiloh Baptist Church, Maxton
Jimmie Gilchrist, Pee Dee Missionary Baptist Educational Association, Hamlet
Johnny R. Pearson, Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church, Greensboro
Milton Butts, Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, Rocky Mount
Pastor Allen Scott, Gethsemane Ministries COGIC, Raleigh
Pastor Andreas Parsley, Decision Covenant COGIC, Cornelius
Pastor Caesar Werts, Greater Redeemed COGIC, Winston-Salem
Pastor Caesar Werts, Redeemed Fellowship Ministries COGIC, Winston-Salem
Pastor Charles Washington, Regeneration Temple COGIC, Wake Forest
Pastor Demetrius Samuel, Sr, Sherman Memorial C.O.G.I.C., Charlotte
Pastor Earl McBride, Uplift Christian Center COGIC, Gibsonville
Pastor Earnest Williams, Joshua's Generation Fellowship COGIC, Durham
Pastor Gary Cypress, New Commission Fellowship COGIC, Havelock
Pastor Harold Drumwright, Embrace Christian Center COGIC, Roxboro
Pastor James Parker, The Pillar&Ground of Truth COGIC, Zebulon
Pastor Jasen Grant, Kingdom COGIC, Harrisburg
Pastor John Lyon, House of Prayer COGIC, Roxboro

Pastor Lawrence Roary, Resurrection Life Ministries COGIC, Charlotte
Pastor Lorenzo Eldy, Faith Temple C.O.G.I.C., Wilmington
Pastor Michael Roary, Providence Covenant COGIC, Charlotte
Pastor Michael White, New Beginnings Christian Fellowship COGIC, Asheboro
Pastor Michael Woodard, Grace Church COGIC, Wilson
Pastor Myron Miller, Emmanuel Fellowship COGIC, Siler City
Pastor Patrick Leake, Tree of Life Family Christian Center COGIC, Greensboro
Pastor Ricky Alexander, God First COGIC, Burlington
Pastor Robert Blackwell, New Hope COGIC, Maysville
Pastor Robert Corbitt, Lighthouse Fellowship COGIC, Mebane
Pastor Ronald Gates, Greater Works COGIC, Asheville
Pastor Tyrone Pickett, Kingdom Connection COGIC, Burgaw
Pastor Willard D. McNair, Vision of Unity Outreach Ministries COGIC, Asheboro
Pastor William Cooper, Salt of the Earth COGIC, Burlington
Re. Doris Gorham, Beebe Memorial CME, Washington
Reverend Brenda Harrington, St Paul CME, Apex
Reverend Charles Kitrell, Rouse Chapel Baptist, LaGrange
Reverend Delores Mingo, Thompson Chapel CME, Lexington
Reverend Denny Chambers, St. Davie Baptist Church, Wingate
Reverend John Cradle, St Joseph CME, Chapel Hill
Reverend Keith Wooten, Staunton Memorial CME, Pittsboro
Reverend Robert J. Williams, Jr, Williams Memorial CME, High Point
Reverend Handy Gunter, Mt. Elam Baptist, Harrells
Reverend Johnnie Gorham, Shady Grove Baptist, Raeford
Reverend Richard Joyner, Sr, Hoopers Chapel Baptist, Leland
Reverend Acie Robinson, Jr, First Baptist Deep Bottom, Wallace
Reverend Advertus Hoff, Jr., Helton Community CME, Charlotte
Reverend Alban Burney, Ebenezer Missionary Baptist, Wadesboro
Reverend Albert Moses, Matthews-Murkland Presbyterian, Charlotte
Reverend Alexander Porter, Bethpage United Presbyterian, Concord
Reverend Alfred Holston, Hayes Chapel Baptist, Rose Hill
Reverend Alfred Jackson, Enoch Chapel Baptist, Wilmington
Reverend Alice Mills-Henderson, St. James CME, Chocowinity
Reverend Alvin Stafford, Allen Temple CME, Gaffney
Reverend Amantha Barbee, Statesville Avenue Presbyterian, Charlotte
Reverend Antonio Lawrence, Faith Presbyterian, Goldsboro
Reverend Antonio Smith, Pleasant Hill Baptist, Ansonville
Reverend Arbutus Hines, Stony Knoll-Mill CME, Spring
Reverend Arrie Melvin , Russell Tabernacle CME, Springdale
Reverend Arthur C. Canada, Southend Presbyterian, Charlotte
Reverend Barry Gray, First Baptist Missionary Baptist Church, Siler City
Reverend Ben Artis, Mount Calvary Baptist, Willard
Reverend Benjamin Black, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Charlotte
Reverend Benjamin Everett, Point Caswell Baptist, Athinson
Reverend Benjamin Thompson, Rosa Green Baptist, Currie
Reverend Billy Holden, New Faith Baptist, Winston-Salem