

## **Statement on the Affordable Clean Energy Rule**

*June 20, 2019*

The recently released Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule, which replaces the Clean Power Plan, is a step backward in the effort to curb climate change, address air pollution, and protect human health.

Religious organizations and faithful congregations around the country have placed a priority on protecting God's Earth and human health. A growing majority of Americans are concerned about rising temperatures and climate change and want action to curb emissions to address this crisis. People of faith submitted thousands of comments in opposition to the proposed rule and have consistently advocated for protecting communities from the devastating impacts of air pollution and climate change. The threats imposed by a changing climate and air pollution are something that we are acutely aware of since we are on the front lines of disaster relief and preparedness, refugee resettlement and healthcare.

The EPA's own analysis indicates that the ACE rule would lead to as many as 1,400 premature deaths annually by 2030 from an increase in extremely fine particulate matter that is linked to heart and lung disease, and up to 15,000 new cases of upper respiratory problems including asthma, a rise in bronchitis, and tens of thousands of missed school days.

We are deeply disappointed in the Environmental Protection Agency's short-sighted decision and urge the Environmental Protection Agency to reverse course and join us as we work to protect our families and communities, particularly vulnerable populations, from the devastating impacts of air pollution and climate change.

Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice  
Church World Service  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Conference of Major Superiors of Men  
Franciscan Action Network  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
GreenFaith  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
OHALAH: Association of Rabbis and Cantors for Jewish Renewal  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A), Office of Public Witness  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Institute Justice Team  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth