

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,

Dr. Willie J. Thompson, Jr., Morning Star Baptist Church, Clairton
Rev. Charles Mock, Community Baptist Church, Erie
Rev. Duane Hunter, Morning Star Baptist Church, Erie
Rev. Allen B. Green, Second Baptist Church, Erie
Rev. Anthony Harris, Shiloh Baptist Church, Erie
Rev. Gregory B. Hall, Freedom Baptist Church, Jeannette
Rev. Calvin McCroy Sr, Mount Sinai Institutional Baptist, Johnstown
Rev. Dr. Ralph E. Johnson, St. James Missionary Baptist Church, Johnstown
Rev. Cordell Fountain, First Baptist Church, Midland
Rev. Arthur R. White, Christ Community Baptist Church, Philadelphia
Rev. Joseph E. Daniels, Emanuel Institutional Baptist Church, Philadelphia
Rev. Dennis Earl Thomas, First Corinthian Baptist Church, Philadelphia
Rev. Paul R. Lee, Jones Memorial Baptist Church, Philadelphia

Rev. Dr. J. Wendell Mapson, Jr., Monumental Baptist Church, Philadelphia
Rev. Dr. Vernon S. Thompson, Sr., Morris Chapel Baptist Church, Philadelphia
Rev. Dr. Albert F. Campbell, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Philadelphia
Rev. Edmund T. Sherrill, Mt. Enon Baptist Church, Philadelphia
Rev. Harry Moore Sr., Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Philadelphia
Rev. Scott Doresy, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Holmesburg, Philadelphia
Rev. Samuel B. Jordan, Jr., New Gethsemane Baptist Church, Philadelphia
Dr. Benjamin Thompson, III, New Light Beulah Baptist Church, Philadelphia
Rev. Robert V. Shipman, Sr., Prince of Peace Baptist Church, Philadelphia
Rev. Darrian A. Brown, Rome Emmanuel Baptist Church, Philadelphia
Rev. Harold R. Jolley, Second Macedonia Baptist Church, Philadelphia
Rev. James Moore, Sr., Second Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Philadelphia
Dr. William B. Moore, Tenth Memorial Baptist Church, Philadelphia
James S. Allen, Vine Memorial Baptist Church, Philadelphia
Reverend Robert J. Lovett, Sr., Wayland Temple Baptist Church, Philadelphia
Rev. Alec K. Piper, Allegheny Union Baptist Association, Pittsburgh
Rev. Christopher Glover, Corinthian Baptist Church, Pittsburgh
Dr. Vincent Campbell, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Pittsburgh
Rev. Malachi Smith, Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, Glenwood, Pittsburgh
Dr. Ronnie B. Tucker, Sr., Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Steelton
Rev. Queen Dickey, Saint John CME Church, Harrisburg
Rev. John Dillard, III, Holsey Temple CME Church, Philadelphia
Rev. William Irons, Saint Matthew CME, Chester
Rev. Aaron Donnelly, Saint Paul CME, Chester
Rev. Alfred Parker, Mount Zion CME, Sharon
Rev. Tiggs Washington, Williams Temple CME, Philadelphia
Rev. Bonita Collins-Hobbs, Saint Paul CME, Chester
Rev. Jonathan Dicky, Saint John CME Church, Harrisburg
Rev. Alfred Jones, Holsey Temple CME Church, Philadelphia
Rev. Linda Samuels-Ellerbe, Mount Zion AME, Atglen
Rev. Marlon Carter, Small Memorial AME Zion, Harrisburg
Rev. Sandra Reed, Saint Mark AME Zion, Newtown
Rev. Nathaniel Cox, Trinity AME Zion, Pittsburgh
Rev. Austin Young, Saint Paul AME Zion, Media
Rev. James Harris, Saint James AME, Pittsburgh