

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,

Rev. Ralph S. Hodge, Second Baptist Church, Norfolk
Dr. Keith Jones, Shiloh Baptist Church, Norfolk
Dr. Shelton Murphy, Mount Gilead Baptist Church, Norfolk
Rev. Taft Heatley, Shiloh Baptist Church, Alexandria
Rev. Rufus Fuller, III, East New Hope Baptist, Danville
Dr. Samuel Trusty, Loyal Baptist Church, Danville
Rev. Kenneth Richard, Jr., Union Baptist Church, Chesterfield
Dr. Alvin Edwards, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Charlottesville
Rev. Dwight Steel, Jr., Pilgrim Baptist Church, Roanoke
Dr. Reginald Woodhouse, First Baptist-Jefferson Park, Newport-News
Dr. Kevin Swann, Ivy Baptist Church, Newport-News
Rev. Tyrone Nelson, Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church, Richmond
Dr. James Victor, Mount Olive Baptist Church, Arlington

Dr. Geoffrey Guns, Sr., Second Baptist Church, Norfolk
Dr. F. Todd Gray, Fifth Street Baptist Church, Richmond
Bishop B. Courtney McBath, Calvary Revival Church, Norfolk
Dr. Melvin Marriener, Grove Baptist Church, Norfolk
Dr. Oretha Cross, Saint Paul AME Church, Newport-News
Dr. Dwight Riddick, Gethsemane Baptist Church, Newport-News
Dr. Mark Bass, Greater Walter AME Zion, Newport-News
Rev. Linda Stevenson, Walters Temple AME Zion, Newport-News
Dr. Leonard Smith, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Arlington
Bishop Jeffrey Reaves, Sr., Good Shepherd Baptist Church, Petersburg
Rev. Robert Diggs, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Petersburg
Rev. Kenneth Lucas, Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church, Petersburg
Dr. Carl B. Hutcherson, , First Baptist Church, Lynchburg
Dr. Anthony Chandler, Cedar Street Baptist Church, Richmond
Rev. Ulysses Payne, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Richmond
Rev. Garrison Hickman, Gethsemane Presbyterian Church, Drakes Branch
Rev. Jane Johnson, Grace Presbyterian Church, Martinsville
Rev. Ronald Johnson, Holbrook Street Presbyterian Church, Danville
Dr. Wilbur Douglass, Community Presbyterian Church, Portsmouth
Rev. Addie Peterson, New Horizons Presbyterian Church, Norfolk
Rev. Veronica Thomas, First United Presbyterian Church, Newport-News
Presiding Elder Chester Morris, Norfolk-Eastern Shore-AME Church, Norfolk
Presiding Elder Samuel E. Hayward, Portsmouth-Richmond-Roanoke Church, Richmond
Rev. Evon Bush, Mount Pleasant CME Church, Halifax
Rev. Glenis Grinage, Saint Paul CME Church, Halifax
Rev. Yvonne Bostick, Banister Hill CME Church, Halifax
Rev. Kevin Agee, Williams Chapel CME Church, Front Royal
Rev. Naomi Bouldin, Saint Luke CME Church, Halifax
Rev. Bryan Edwards, Saint Stephens CME Church, Winchester
Pastor Thomas Campbell, Living Word Church of God In Christ, Virginia Beach
Dr. Sharon Riley, Faith Deliverance C.O.G.I.C., Norfolk
Pastor Clarence Sellers, Dominion C.O.G.I.C., Hampton
Pastor Barry Winston, Saint Mark C.O.G.I.C., Richmond
Pastor Duane McNair, Bethel C.O.G.I.C., Chesapeake
Pastor Samuel Gaskins, Victory Tabernacle C.O.G.I.C., Keller
Pastor Albert James, Cana of Galilee C.O.G.I.C., Norfolk
Pastor Michael Jenkins, Dominion Tabernacle C.O.G.I.C., Chesapeake
Pastor Eugene C. McCown, Jr., Praise Center C.O.G.I.C., Dumfries
Rev. Randy Kiah, Greater Faith AME Zion Church, Petersburg
Rev. Darwin Little, Metropolitan AME Zion, Norfolk
Rev. Reginald Jones, First AME Zion, Shipman
Rev. Sharon Hall, Greater Metropolitan AME Zion, Norfolk
Rev. Andre' Jefferson, Sr., Bethel AME Church, Hampton
Rev. Kevin Wilson, Saint Paul AME Church, Winchester
Rev. John Swann, Bethel AME Church, Cove Spring
Rev. Kimberly Young, Bethel AME Church, Harrisonburg

Rev. Michael McCray, Ebenezer AME, Roanoke
Rev. Douglas Bynum, Mount Zion AME Church, Martinsburg
Rev. Amy Ziglar, Mount Zion AME Church, Roanoke
Rev. Charlotte Ritchie, Saint John AME Church, Roanoke
Rev. Jennifer Wharton, Saint Paul AME Church, Danville
Rev. Earl Morris, Bethel AME Church, Smithfield
Rev. Phyllis Whichard, Saint Paul AME Church, Portsmouth
Rev. Juan Turnes, Beulah Land AME, Courtland
Rev. Coston Griffin, Cuffie Chapel AME, Dendron
Rev. Kenneth Zollicoffer, David Temple AME, Courtland
Rev. Mark Bass, Greater Walters AME, Newport-News
Rev. Vanesaa D. Hinton, Hickory Grove AME, Franklin
Rev. Joshus Walker, Mars Hill AME, Wakefield
Rev. Andrea James, New Life AME, Hampton
Rev. Bettie Bradley, Saint Luke AME Church, Franklin
Rev. Felecia Johnson, Saint Mary AME, Courtland
Rev. Linda Stevenson, Walters Temple AME , Newport-News
Rev. Tonya Pass, Brighton Rock AME, Portsmouth
Rev. Sharon Hall, Greater Metropolitan AME , Norfolk
Rev. Alvania Eason, New Foreman Temple AME, Chesapeake
Rev. Brandon Praileau, Wesley Union AME, Norfolk
Rev. Elizabeth Saunders, Blackwell Temple AME, Kenbridge
Rev. Sheryl Murdaugh, Madison Temple AME, Colonial Heights
Rev. Vanessa Hicks, Mount Zion AME Church, Dundas
Rev. John Tunwell, Jr., Oak Street AME, Petersburg
Rev. Cecelia White, Paradise AME, Broadnax
Rev. Alma Coles-Charles, Saint Paul AME Church, Meredithville
Rev. Yolanda Buck, White Rock AME, Alberta
Rev. Dexter Feely, Zion Chester AME, Chester