

March 31, 2017

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As communities of faith we hold to values of stewardship and justice. We are deeply troubled by the recent Energy Independence Executive Order, which dismantles years of progress to address climate change.

God's creation is sacred and we are called to responsibly steward the gifts of creation while protecting our most vulnerable neighbors. We are acutely aware of the threats posed by a changing climate, since our congregations and religious institutions are on the front lines of disaster relief and preparedness, refugee resettlement, and healthcare. The recent Energy Independence Executive Order will negatively impact these ministries.

Climate change and poor air quality are already posing risks to our health, our economy, and our quality of life both here in the United States and abroad. Climate change poses serious threats in particular to vulnerable communities, endangering the health and livelihood of millions of minority families in the United States as well as in communities overseas. From heat-related mortality to increased asthma attacks to lost job opportunities, evidence shows how climate change disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations, particularly when it comes to public health.

The Clean Power Plan would help reduce air pollution and would maintain an affordable, reliable energy system, while protecting our health and environment now and for future generations. The Clean Power Plan is projected to prevent nearly 3,000 premature deaths and almost 100,000 asthma attacks per year by 2030. Every child has the right to a pollution free environment and we have a moral obligation to protect God's gift of air for our children and grandchildren.

As we feel the impacts of climate change across the breadth of our ministries, we expect governmental leadership to help us address the root causes of climate change: greenhouse gas emissions. We urge you to uphold the Clean Power Plan and use the power of the Executive Branch to address the clear and present danger of climate change. We insist that you keep to your stated promise during your campaign and in your address to a recent joint session of Congress to protect clean air so that we can ensure the health and wellbeing of our communities and all creation.

Sincerely,
Christian Reformed Church in North America, Office of Social Justice
Church World Service

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
Creation Justice Ministries
The Episcopal Church
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Green Chalice, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Interfaith Power & Light
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Maryknoll Sisters, Eastern Region, USA
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Institute Justice Team
Sojourners
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Association
Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth
United Church of Christ, Justice & Witness Ministries
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society

Cc: The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Members of Congress