

U.S. Congress
Washington, DC

December 11, 2020

Dear Member of Congress:

As faith leaders, we are morally obligated to advocate on behalf of the communities that we represent and serve. We write in the name of the most vulnerable among us, including those in poverty, children, and communities of color.

The unprecedented events of 2020 – from the health and economic crises caused by the pandemic to the recent climate-related disasters across the western and southern United States – have unequally impacted vulnerable communities, and we urge Congress to respond swiftly and effectively.

The pandemic exposed an urgent need to protect human health, and this need was solidified by the subsequent release of reports from both the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis and the Senate Democrats’ Special Committee on the Climate Crisis. The anticipated costs of continued climate “business as usual” are deeply troubling. Congress has a moral duty to construct pragmatic climate proposals that protect our health, the economy, and God’s Earth for generations to come.

Many of the scenarios the Senate and House Committee reports warned of are already underway in the states where we live and work. Millions of acres across the West have been lost to tragic wildfires that endanger human life and livelihood. Strong hurricanes with life-threatening storm surge threaten our communities in along the Gulf and Atlantic Coast, with many populations continuing to grapple with increased high-tide flooding.

Marginalized and impoverished communities are disproportionately impacted by severe weather, economic adversity, and increased health risks from COVID-19. Many of these communities are among our congregants, and will continue to suffer unless provided with resources to adapt. Policies that prioritize health and climate change mitigation and adaptation must be pursued with urgency.

We are praying for an effective Congressional response to the challenges presented by both the pandemic and climate change. Through our faith we are guided by shared moral values that give precedence to safeguarding marginalized communities, protecting our children, and caring for God’s creation. We urge Congress to prioritize these goals for the good of all, including future generations.

Sincerely,

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