

May 26, 2017

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

Dear Mr. President:

As senior religious leaders representing diverse religious organizations including Jewish, Catholic, Evangelical and Protestant, we envision a healthy planet that can sustain life for all God's children. We value the actions the United States has taken over recent years to address climate change and reduce carbon pollution. We urge you to continue this commitment and specifically, we ask that you reaffirm the importance of U.S. leadership and commitment to the Paris agreement.

The Jewish and Christian faith traditions share a deep conviction that we have one earth and must steward it responsibly. Global climate change presents an unprecedented threat to the integrity of life on Earth and a challenge to values that bind us as human beings. We know that the consequences of climate change are not felt equally across communities within our own country and those around the world.

As you make key decisions regarding climate change and energy policy, we urge you to be guided by a moral framework that includes not only being responsible stewards of God's creation, but protecting poor and vulnerable populations in the US and abroad while meeting our obligations to future generations. We believe that the Paris agreement follows this moral framework regarding climate change.

Vulnerable communities disproportionately suffer from hurricanes, floods, droughts, famines, and water scarcities. These impacts fall most heavily on those who have done the least to create the problem and who possess the fewest resources to adapt. Our notion of the common good calls us to be in solidarity with those impacted by climate change while avoiding the temptation to pass this problem along to future generations as a result of our own neglect or narrow interests.

Our common moral values call us to care for the least of these and among them are our children in the United States. According to the American Lung Association four in ten people still live in areas of dangerous air quality with nearly 2.5 million children already stricken with asthma whose lives are even more threatened by warming temperatures. The same is true of vector borne diseases such as Lyme disease, dengue fever, and zika whose impact now threaten the United States.

Policies that both reduce our global carbon emissions and provide protection and support for countries and individuals that face the undue burden of climate change honor God's directives to be responsible stewards of the earth and to care for our neighbors. For the religious community, our priorities regarding climate change reflect several moral requirements: to protect and assist

the poorest peoples and nations, to defend our children's health, to care for God's creation, and to fulfill our obligation to future generations. We affirm that funding for climate change related adaptation and mitigation programs, which are part of the Paris agreement, is urgently needed if we are to meet our moral obligations to protect God's earth and God's people.

We assure you of our continuing prayers and best wishes for you and your staff as you work to address the urgent global challenge of climate change.

Respectfully yours,

Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe, General Secretary
General Board of Church and Society, The United Methodist Church

Shantha Ready Alonso
Executive Director, Creation Justice Ministries

Dr. Timothy Tee Boddie, General Secretary
Progressive National Baptist Convention

Patrick Carolan, Executive Director
Franciscan Action Network

Nigel Savage, President and CEO
Hazon

Sister Jane Remson, O.Carm., representative of the Carmelite NGO to the United Nations
Carmelite NGO

Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb
Chair, Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life

Scott Wright
Director, Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach

Sister Patricia McDermott, RSM, president
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Rev. Raymond Finch, Superior General
Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers

Sr. Antoinette Gutzler, President
Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic

Mr. Sam Stanton, Executive Director
Maryknoll Lay Missioners

Eli S. McCarthy, PhD, Director of Justice and Peace
Conference of Major Superiors of Men

John McCullough
Church World Service

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner
Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

Jim Winkler
General Secretary, National Council of Churches USA