

... February 27, 2019 Washington, D.C. News Advisory ...

## **FAITH LEADERS TO JOIN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN VOICING OPPOSITION TO TRUMP OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN**

### *Roundtable Event on Capitol Hill Highlights Risks of Offshore Drilling Expansion*

**WASHINGTON, D.C. // NEWS ADVISORY ///** Religious leaders from coastal communities will join congressional leaders from both political parties in a gathering on Capitol Hill this Wednesday, February 27, 2019, for a unique event highlighting the impact of offshore drilling and severe weather on coastal communities. The National Religious Partnership for the Environment (NRPE) organized the event, entitled “**Faith Perspectives: Coastal Communities, Severe Weather & Offshore Drilling,**” to be held Wednesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ET at the United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill.

The roundtable will feature a diverse group of religious and Congressional leaders discussing the dangers posed by offshore drilling and how stewardship calls on us to responsibly use and protect creation. It will present perspectives from senior religious leaders in Virginia, North Carolina and Florida as well as Congressional leaders, from both political parties, who are champions for environmental issues.

The event will be open to religious representatives and the general public and will include prayers for the people and the planet.

Roundtable event speakers to include:

- **Rep. Francis Rooney** (R-FL);
- **Rep. A. Donald McEachin** (R-VA) - invited;
- **Rep. Kathy Castor** (D-FL) - invited;
- **Rep. Emanuel Cleaver** (D-MO) - invited;
- **Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton** (D-DC) - invited;
- **Rep. Joe Cunningham** (D-SC) - invited;
- **Rev. Russ Meyers**, Florida Council of Churches;
- **Emily Wirzba**, Friends Committee on National Legislation;
- **Rev. Jimmie Hawkins**, Presbyterian Church USA;
- **Penny Hopper**, North Carolina Council of Churches; and
- **Jessie Smith**, General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church.

#### **WHEN:**

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ET. Wednesday, February 27, 2019

#### **WHERE:**

United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill  
100 Maryland Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Alex Frank, (703) 276-3264 or [afrank@hastingsgroup.com](mailto:afrank@hastingsgroup.com)

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Photos and b-roll footage from the roundtable event will be available upon request. Contact Alex Frank, (703) 276-3264 or [afrank@hastingsgroup.com](mailto:afrank@hastingsgroup.com) for more information.

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The National Religious Partnership for the Environment brings together a diverse alliance of faith institutions and leaders in order to bring voice and action on behalf of caring for God's Creation. NRPE offers resources and accounts of how people of faith are acting upon God's mandate to be stewards of God's Earth. NRPE also fosters the religious voice on environmental issues. Visit [NRPE.org](http://NRPE.org) for more information.