

November 8, 2019

The Honorable Rob Wittman
The Honorable Robert C. Scott
The Honorable Denver Riggleman
The Honorable Ben Cline
The Honorable Abigail Spanberger
The Honorable Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
The Honorable Morgan Griffith
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives: Wittman, Scott, Riggleman, Cline, Spanberger, Beyer and Griffith:

As leaders in our religious communities we have a moral obligation to ensure that public policy protects the minority communities that we represent and serve. Policies that address climate change should promote clean energy and protect the health and wellbeing of our congregants.

We know that the impacts of climate change are not felt equally across communities. Vulnerable populations including marginalized and impoverished communities disproportionately suffer from severe weather, increased health problems such as asthma, and lost job opportunities. These impacts fall most heavily on those who have done the least to create the problem and who possess the fewest resources to adapt.

To begin addressing these injustices and work towards a vision of vibrant communities, we urge you to support the 100% Clean Economy Act of 2019. This legislation would mitigate the worst impacts of climate change, transition the country to cleaner sources of energy, and ensure that there is a just transition of jobs for the future wellbeing of our communities.

Through our faith we are united behind common moral values that place a premium on protecting and assisting vulnerable populations, defending our children's health, caring for God's creation, and fulfilling our obligations to future generations. It is through this lens that we view climate change and recognize that this threat is already causing destruction, despair and displacement.

As we feel the impacts of climate change across the breadth of our ministries we know that climate change cannot be separated from our destiny as people of color. We call on Congress to help us address the root causes of climate change by embracing clean energy. We urge you to co-sponsor the 100% Clean Economy Act of 2019.

Sincerely,

Rev. Kenneth Lucas, Carver Memorial Presbyterian, Newport News
Rev. Veronica Thomas, First United Presbyterian, Norfolk
Dr. Wilbur Douglass, III, Community Presbyterian, Portsmouth

Rev. Addie Peterson, New Horizons Presbyterian, Norfolk
Rev. Brent Pratt Keyes, All Souls Presbyterian, Richmond
Rev. Nathan Dell, First United Presbyterian, Richmond
Rev. Ulysses Payne, Westminster Presbyterian, Petersburg
Rev. Russ Merritt, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian, Roanoke
Rev. Jane Johnson, Grace Presbyterian, Martinsville
Rev. Ronald Johnson, Holbrook Street Presbyterian, Danville
Rev. Garrison M. Hickman, Gethsemane United Presbyterian, Drakes Branch
Pastor Barry L. Winston, St Mark C.O.G.I.C., Richmond
Pastor Calvin Harris, Reconciliation C.O.G.I.C., Richmond
Pastor Charles L. Price, Living Epistle C.O.G.I.C., Fairfax
Pastor Carl B. McPherson, Sr, The Answer C.O.G.I.C., Fredericksburg
Pastor Donald General, Jr, Perfecting Saints C.O.G.I.C., Virginia Beach
Elder Eugene C. McCown, Jr, Praise Center C.O.G.I.C., Woodbridge
Pastor Alphonso Hamilton, First Church of God In Christ, Stauton
Pastor Terry Phillips, Faith Mission C.O.G.I.C., Fairfax
Rev. Tony D. Boone, St Mark AME, Virginia Beach
Rev. Vanessa A. Copeland, Mt Zion AME, Virginia Beach
Rev. Abraham Mackey, Campbell Chapel AME, Virginia Beach
Rev. Andre' P. Jefferson, Sr., Bethel AME, Norfolk
Rev. Etoria Goggins, First AME, Manassas
Rev. Leonard Smith, Mount Zion Baptist, Arlington
Pastor Sherman Anderson, Bread of Life Temple C.O.G.I.C., Richmond
Dr. W. Alexander Boyd, Living Faith Christian Fellowship C.O.G.I.C., Richmond
Elder Tony Campbell, Yeshua Church of God In Christ, Manassas
Elder William T. Coles, Pure Gospel C.O.G.I.C., Bedford
Pastor Andie Cork, Sr, Mt Peniel C.O.G.I.C., Fredericksburg
Pastor William Cornick, Jr, Body of Believers Outreach C.O.G.I.C., Fredericksburg
Elder Ronnie C. Edmonds, Bethlehem C.O.G.I.C., Chesapeake
Pastor Samuel Gaskins, Victory Tabernacle C.O.G.I.C., Keller
Pastor Larry Gray, Mt. Lebanon C.O.G.I.C., Suffolk
Pastor Antonio Gregory, Covenant Peoples C.O.G.I.C., Virginia Beach
Elder Walter Harold, Sheep Gate C.O.G.I.C., Virginia Beach
Pastor Albert James, St. Job C.O.G.I.C., Norfolk
Elder James Little, Sr, Miracles of Faith C.O.G.I.C., Chesapeake
Elder James Lyon, Holy Temple C.O.G.I.C., Danville
Pastor Phillip Neubia, Powerhouse of Praise C.O.G.I.C., Williamsburg
Rev. Gregory Howard, First Baptist East End, Newport News
Rev. James Victor, Jr, Mt Olive Baptist, Arlington
Rev Milton Bunting, Ebenezer Baptist, Exmore
Rev Griselda A. Bayton, Trinity Baptist, Center Cross
Rev. Robert L. Pettis, Sr, Zion Baptist, Richmond
Rev. Sheridan Nelson, Abyssinia Baptist, Norfolk
Rev. Robert W. Trice, Abyssinia Baptist, Newport News
Rev. William O. Greene, Antioch Baptist, Newport News
Rev. Raymond Diggs, Antioch Missionary Baptist, Norfolk

Rev. Quincy Moore, Bethlehem Baptist, Norfolk
Rev. Elexander Adkinson, Calvary Community Baptist, Newport News
Bishop Samuel Cutler, Canaan Baptist, Hampton
Rev. Rex Ellis, Cary's Baptist, Yorktown
Rev. Peter Evans, Colossian Baptist, Newport News
Rev. Walter Dean, Ebenezer Baptist, Hampton
Rev. Howard Heard, Emmanuel Baptist, Newport News
Rev. Darrell Goodrich, Faith Baptist, Newport News
Rev. William Tyree, First Baptist - Berkley, Norfolk
Rev. Robert Murray, First Baptist - Bute St, Norfolk
Rev. Tyrone Jackson, First Baptist - Campostella, Norfolk
Rev. Dwight Riddick, Gethsemane Baptist, Newport News
Rev. William L. Davis, Jr, Mt Pleasant Baptist, Norfolk
Rev. Corey Brown, Providence Baptist, Newport News
Rev. Reginald Woodhouse, First Baptist - Jefferson Park, Newport News
Rev. Anthony C. Paige, First Baptist - Lambert, Norfolk
Rev. Rameen Jackson, First Baptist - Logan Park, Norfolk
Rev. Marcellus Harris, First Baptist - Morrison, Newport News
Rev. Reginald Davis, First Baptist - Williamsburg, Williamsburg
Rev. Dennis Ruffin, First United Baptist, Newport News
Rev. Beverly Ashburn, Friendship Baptist, Newport News
Rev. James Jones, Galilee Baptist, Newport News
Rev. George Gholson, Grafton Baptist, Yorktown
Rev. Hallie Richardson, Jr, Little Zion Baptist, Hampton
Rev. Linwood Gatling, Little Zion Baptist, Williamsburg
Rev. John Wilson, Macedonia Baptist, Newport News
Rev. Dano Armstrong, Messiah Baptist, Newport News
Rev. Anthony R. Cooper, Miracle Temple Baptist, Newport News
Rev. Wilbur Jones, Morning Star, Hampton
Rev. Billy Florence, Morning Star, Newport News
Rev. Shelton Murphy, Mt. Gilead Missionary Baptist, Norfolk
Rev. Bobby Bowser, Mt Lebanon Baptist, Norfolk
Rev. Ron Ellis, Mt Pleasant Baptist, Williamsburg
Rev. Bruce Thomas, Mt Zion Baptist, Chesapeake
Rev. Willard Maxwell, New Beech Grove, Newport News
Rev. Ernest Chambliss, New Bethel Baptist, Yorktown
Rev. Anderson Foreman, New Galilee Baptist, Chesapeake
Rev. Michael Sumler, New Grafton Baptist, Newport News
Rev. Christopher Carter, New Hope Baptist, Hampton
Rev. George Marrow, New Quarter Baptist, Williamsburg
Rev. Edward Barringer, Jr, New Rising Sun Baptist, Norfolk
Rev. Corey McPherson, New Willow Grove Baptist, Chesapeake
Rev. Robert Whitehead, New Zion Baptist, Williamsburg
Rev. Stephen Keller, Oak Grove Baptist, Williamsburg
Rev. Anderson Clary, Jr, Queen Street Baptist, Hampton
Rev. David Spratley, Rising Sun Baptist, Lackey

Rev. Brenda McDonald, Second Baptist, Hampton
Rev. Geoffrey Guns, Second Calvary Baptist, Norfolk
Rev. Derrick Perkins, Shalom Baptist, Newport News
Rev. Keith Jones, Shiloh Baptist, Norfolk
Rev. Barbara Lemon, Shiloh Baptist, Yorktown
Rev. Jerome Barber, Sixth Mt Zion Temple Baptist, Hampton
Rev. Walter Hudson, St John Baptist, Williamsburg
Rev. Clarence Bolton, Union Baptist, Williamsburg
Rev. Paul Sims, West End Baptist, Hampton
Rev. Price L. Davis, Mosby Memorial Baptist, Richmond
Rev. Vernon Hurte, New Light Baptist, Richmond
Rev. Morris Henderson, 31st Street Baptist, Richmond
Rev. Earl L. Bledsoe (Ret), Great Hope Baptist, Richmond
Rev. Emory Berry, Jr, Fourth Baptist, Richmond
Rev. Rodney D. Waller, First African Baptist, Richmond
Rev. Darrell White, Bethlehem Baptist, Alexandria
Rev. Albert Jackson, Ebenezer Baptist, Alexandria
Rev. Brandon Baum, St John CME, Petersburg
Rev. Betty Boston, Lawrenceville Mission CME, Lawrenceville
Rev. Tyrone Nelson, Sixth Mt Zion Baptist, Richmond
Rev. Dexter Feely, Zion Chester AME Zion, Chester
Rev. Reuben Boyd, Third Street Bethel AME, Richmond
Rev. John I. Swann, Bethel AME, Roanoke
Rev. Amy Ziglar, Mt Zion AME, Roanoke
Rev. Percy McIntyre, Ebenezer AME, Roanoke
Rev. Naomi Bouldin, St. Luke CME, Halifax
Rev. Evon Bush, Mt Pleasant CME, Halifax
Rev. John Cradle, Sr, Union Grove CME, South Boston
Rev. John Cradle, Sr, Miles Bethel CME, LaCrosse
Rev. Bryan Edwards, St. Stephens CME, Winchester
Rev. Charles Hudson, Union Grove CME, South Boston
Rev. Leonard Jones, Mt Pisgah CME, Evington
Rev Keith Mitchell, Williams Temple CME, South Boston
Rev. Kevin J. Agee, Williams Chapel CME, Front Royal
Rev. Michele Parker, Russell Temple CME, Alexandria

cc: The Honorable Elaine Luria
The Honorable A. Donald McEachin
The Honorable Jennifer Wexton
The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly