



National Religious Coalition on Creation Care

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Saturday
May 27, 2017

The Honorable Donald Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

On behalf of religious leaders across America, we congratulate you for your successful meeting with Pope Francis. His gift of the encyclical “Laudato Si!” contains an appropriate message for all people of faith and all citizens of this country.

Please recall a recent Gallup poll of Americans which finds that fully 82% of the population self-identifies with organized religion. The polling also finds that 77% of our population adhere to some form of Christianity.¹

Every religious organization that has studied climate change has come to the identical conclusion that climate change is a serious issue. Some excerpts from their official statements follow:

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops invoked the “precautionary principle” on the supposition that even if a small percentage of the claims by scientists are true, a cautionary position must be taken. Since then the Catholic Church, representing 24% of Americans, has asked clergy to teach the dangers of global climate change.²

Mainline Protestants, representing over forty denominations, are strong and vigorous in declaring the importance of addressing climate change. The 2009 statement from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) unanimously concludes, “Climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing all of God’s creation.”³

Conservative, Reformed and Reconstructionist Jews see the issue similarly. Jews are strong advocates for action on climate change. The Central Conference of American Rabbis calls on the U.S. government “to take leadership on the issue of global climate change.”⁴

The Presbyterian Church USA has concluded similarly. They write, the U.S. “has historically produced more greenhouse gases than any other country...” and must accept its moral responsibility to be a world leader in resolving this crisis.⁵

¹ <http://www.gallup.com/poll/159548/identify-christian.aspx>

² US Conference of Catholic Bishops, statement of 2000.

³ <http://www.christiansandclimate.org/statement/>

⁴ <https://www.ccarnet.org/about-us/ccar-supports-standing-rock-sioux-indians-and-climate-justice/>

⁵ <http://www.webofcreation.org/ncc/statements/pcusa.html>

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United Methodists, America's third largest Christian denomination, has issued a series of detailed observations and recommendations on climate change. "As a matter of stewardship and justice, Christians must take action now to reduce global warming pollution..."⁶

American Baptists Church leaders call us to the advocacy "of legislation at all levels to reduce carbon dioxide output and to set reduction targets..."⁷

"An Evangelical Call to Action," signed by National Association of Evangelicals' President Reverend Dr. Leif Anderson, declares that the consequences of climate change will be significant and says that "the need to act is urgent."⁸

The Eastern Orthodox Christian churches have stated that "immediate measures must be taken" to address climate change. They declare, "If we fail to act now, the changes already underway will intensify and create catastrophic conditions."⁹

African American clergy from across our nation have issued an Open Letter on global climate change. "We call for bold action from political leaders..." They further declare "this is a humanitarian emergency."¹⁰

The United Church of Christ urges "the U.S. Government to respond to global warming with great urgency and firm leadership by supporting mandatory measures that reduce... greenhouse gas emissions."¹¹

These brief examples are representative of the growing movement in religious groups to speak out on the necessity of addressing global climate change.¹²

Therefore, on behalf of religion in America, we ask you, Mr. President, please maintain and support U.S. participation in the Paris Climate Accord.

Besides, as White House economic advisor Gary Cohn is now publicly emphasizing, coal doesn't make that much sense any more. As he says, pushing renewables could once again make America "a manufacturing powerhouse."¹³

As representatives of religion in America, we speak from a faith conviction that it is our God-given task to care for the earth by exercising a loving responsibility as its stewards and guardians.

⁶ <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/marching-for-climate-change-action>

⁷ <http://www.abc-usa.org/transformed-by-the-spirit/>

⁸ <http://www.npr.org/documents/2006/feb/evangelical/calltoaction.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.assemblyofbishops.org/news/scoba/2007-05-25-global-climate-change>

¹⁰ <http://www.greenfaith.org/programs/environmental-justice/african-american-clergy-open-letter-on-climate-change>

¹¹ http://www.ucc.org/environmental-ministries_synod-resolutions_a-resolution-on-climate

¹² http://fore.yale.edu/religion/christianity/projects/earth_ministry/

¹³ <https://thinkprogress.org/top-trump-economic-adviser-coal-doesnt-even-make-that-much-sense-anymore-496d84f90ed2>

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As people of faith, we all agree that it is unethical to leave a ruined world for our children and grandchildren and for generations yet unborn. We have a moral responsibility to stop the surge of extinctions now underway because of climate change. These extinctions threaten the viability of humanity's food supply. We refuse to stand idly by while the lives of the poor are devastated, suffering first and most grievously from the effects of climate change.

Mr President, we urge you to exercise your executive and moral authority as President and affirm our nation's participation in the Paris Climate Accords.

With our sincere regards, please accept a copy of NRCCC's book, Religion and Global Climate Change. We are upholding you in prayer, asking God to bless your efforts to inspire and mobilize this country to choose a longterm, life-sustaining path.

Faithfully yours,

Rev. Dr. Owen Owens
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

Rabbi Warren Stone
Kensington, Maryland

Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dr. Richard Miller
Omaha, Nebraska

Fr. Dr. Christopher Bender
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dr. Nancy Corson Carter
Chapel Hill, NC

Rev. Dr. Gerald L. Durley
Atlanta, Georgia

David Carroll
Grantsburg, Wisconsin

Marybeth Lorbiecki
Hudson, Wisconsin

Sr. Carlos Agnesi
San Antonio, Texas

Mr. David Krantz
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Dr. Ann Sloat
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For the members and organizations of the NRCCC (www.NRCCC.org)