

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life * Columban Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Office * The Episcopal Church * Evangelical Lutheran Church in America * Friends Committee on National Legislation * Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Justice, Peace/Integrity of Creation Office * Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office * Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns * National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd * National Council of Churches * Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington Office * Unitarian Universalist Association * United Church of Christ * United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society

May 13, 2008

Dear Senator,

Spring is a time to celebrate beauty and rebirth of all Creation. At this time, we urge you to act wisely and courageously on behalf of God's imperiled Creation. The climate is changing at a dangerous pace. Many around the world today are already suffering the harmful effects of these changes. Earth scientists have unequivocally warned of the gravity of the present climatic changes and the probable catastrophic consequences of further inaction by the world's governments.

We, the undersigned, represent many faith traditions, but we are united across theological lines by our deep concern for all of humanity and all of God's Creation. Our prayerful hope is that you will help lead this Congress to act boldly. We implore you to take swift, strong, just, and compassionate action, to arrest the mounting threat to God's Creation and preserve the Earth's life-sustaining capacities for generations to come.

Senators Lieberman, Warner, and Boxer are to be commended for undertaking the politically difficult, but urgently necessary, task of drafting bi-partisan legislation to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. We recognize the tremendous complexity of both the climate challenge and the political challenge, and we respect their sincere efforts. As you evaluate "America's Climate Security Act", we urge you to assure that it will:

- effectively reduce U.S. emissions at the pace and scale that scientists warn is needed to avoid more dangerous climate change and in just proportion to the U.S. contribution to the problem historically;
- provide generous adaptation assistance to help those around the world who, through no fault of their own, are suffering the effects of climate change today;
- provide generous assistance to help developing countries reduce their emissions while at the same time advancing human development;
- provide generous domestic assistance to help poor, vulnerable, and displaced households and communities at home adapt to the carbon-neutral economy of the future;
- invest significant resources to protect and restore the Earth's natural ecosystems, which are so necessary for sustaining all life.

Humankind has never faced such a far-reaching threat. There is no time left for half measures. At a critical juncture for the Israelites, Moses put before them the consequences of their actions: "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity... Choose life that you and your descendants might live." (Deut 11:15 & 19) We ask no less of you: choose life.

Sincerely,

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