Jan. 31, 2025

Dear Members of Congress,

As religious organizations advocating for government policies that align with our moral duty to care for all people and for all of creation, we are praying for the communities destroyed by the wildfires in Los Angeles. But we know we need to do more.

Scientists have stated unequivocally that climate change contributed to the severe drought that fueled the wildfires. That compels us to urge Congress to prioritize robust climate policies for the safety and well-being of communities around the United States and the world.

We are alarmed that the executive orders and targeted funding freezes of the past 12 days are leading us in the wrong direction. We therefore prayerfully and urgently call on you to:

- Support renewable energy investments that are creating jobs and boosting local economies throughout the country;
- Provide robust funding for disaster relief and climate adaptation in the U.S.;
- Pass legislation that puts the U.S. on track to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 61–66 percent below 2005 levels in 2035, our country's recently announced Nationally Determined Contribution to global climate action;
- Hold fossil fuel companies accountable for contributing to climate change-fueled disasters;
- Assist poor countries most vulnerable to climate change with adaptation and compensation for irretrievable losses; and
- Encourage President Trump to keep the U.S. in the Paris Climate Agreement and pursue peace through international climate alliances.

The scale of environmental devastation, human displacement and loss of life in the Los Angeles area cries out for these types of long-term responses. To date, at least 29 people have been killed and 14,000 structures destroyed. Recovery costs are estimated at between $250 and $275 billion. Residents and fire fighters will deal with health issues from exposure to the toxic smoke long after the last flames are extinguished.

With more environmental disasters likely during the second Trump administration, prevention will be less expensive for taxpayers than increasingly needing to respond to such tragedies with funding for immediate relief and long-term recovery.

The wildfires are not just acts of nature; they have been intensified by human actions that disrupt God's creation. We have a moral responsibility to do all we can to ease this current suffering and to prevent such suffering in the future.

Sincerely,

National/International
American Friends Service Committee
Anabaptist Climate Collaborative
Aquarian Minyan
Aytzim: Ecological Judaism
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life
Creation Justice Ministries
Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, USA
Daughters of Wisdom JPIC-USA
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa
Executive Committee of the Dominican Sisters of Racine, WI
Franciscan Action Network
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
IHM Sisters of Monroe, Michigan
Laudato Si Movement
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Mennonite Church USA Climate Justice Ministry
Passionist Solidarity Network
Presentation Sisters San Francisco
Presentation Sisters Union - US Unit
Rabbinical Assembly
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic-Midwest Province
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Houston
Sisters of Charity, BVM
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa
Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
Society for Humanistic Judaism
The Central Conference of American Rabbis
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
Union for Reform Judaism
United Church of Christ
Wheaton Franciscan Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Officer

State/Regional
Bay Area Jewish Earth Alliance
Boston Catholic Climate Movement (Boston Chapter, LSM)
Colorado Jewish Climate Action
Dominican Sisters, Grand Rapids
Hawaii Interfaith Power and Light

Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)
Jewish Earth Alliance- PA
Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light
Laudato Si Movement - Minnesota Chapter
Laudato Si' Movement - Texas Chapter
Missouri Interfaith Power & Light
New Mexico & El Paso Interfaith Power and Light
School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province
Sisters of Charity of New York
Sisters of IHM, Malvern, PA
Sisters of St. Joseph Albany Province
Sisters of St. Joseph, Brentwood, NY
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia
Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania
Texas Impact
Virginia Interfaith Power & Light