

March 15, 2017

Dear Member of Congress:

As members of the Catholic community in the United States, we are dedicated to upholding the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. These teachings include our commitments to protect human life and dignity, to prioritize the needs of poor and vulnerable peoples, and to care for God's creation of which we are a part. Our ability to meet these commitments is threatened by climate change. We echo Pope Francis' call to the 114th Congress for "a courageous and responsible effort to 'redirect our steps' and to avert the most serious effects of the environmental deterioration caused by human activity."

In this spirit, we join with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in welcoming the introduction of a [resolution on climate change](#) by Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) and 16 members of House of Representatives. The resolution recognizes the impacts of climate change, acknowledges that human activity contributes to these changes, and calls on Congress to work constructively on solutions. The resolution can be the bridge across the partisan divide and lead to the courageous efforts Pope Francis asked of Congress. We applaud the 17 legislators who have sponsored this resolution and ask all Representatives to join the bipartisan House Climate Solutions Caucus to craft climate solutions. We urge our Senators to create a similar caucus to foster bicameral collaboration.

We look forward to fostering this spirit of Congressional resolve and cooperation with you so that together, we can create solutions to climate change and thus *care for our common home*.

Respectfully and prayerfully submitted,

Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
Carmelite NGO
Catholic Charities, USA
Catholic Climate Covenant
Catholic Relief Services
Catholic Rural Life
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
Conference of Major Superiors of Men
Franciscan Action Network
Global Catholic Climate Covenant
Ignatian Solidarity Network
Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Pax Christi
Sisters of Mercy

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