



We, the Catholic individuals and organizations of this Encounter for Our Common Home, ask that you provide meaningful solutions to the climate crisis by passing legislation that significantly reduces national greenhouse gas emissions. We ask you to support \$555 billion in climate investments and programs. We ask that you consider your support for these and other climate solutions beyond partisanship for the good of all.

True statecraft is manifest when, in difficult times, we uphold high principles and think of the long-term common good.

Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 178

Senators from both parties recognize the grave threats of human-caused climate change, imperiling all peoples, our common home, and our shared future. You have now a profound opportunity to pivot our world away from climate catastrophe. We ask that you consider this through the lens of your faith and your legacy to yours and our children, state, nation, world, and Creator.

What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?

Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 160



READING THE “SIGNS OF THE TIMES”

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s [2022 report](#) reaffirmed that human-caused carbon emissions have driven global temperatures up over 1° Celsius since the 19th century. Oceans largely absorb this heat, melting sea ice and upsetting global weather patterns. Sea levels rose eight inches during the 20th century, threatening the 40% of humans that live within 100km of a coast. An intensified water cycle increases frequency of extreme weather events. ([UN study](#))

The effects of climate change are felt by all, especially the most vulnerable. Over 20 million people are displaced annually due to climate change. 1.4 billion people could be displaced by 2060 and 2 billion by 2100. ([Cornell study](#))

CATHOLICISM AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Care for creation is a requirement of the Catholic faith, according to Saint John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Pope Francis, and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Pope Francis has raised the moral imperative for ambitious global action to mitigate the potentially catastrophic consequences of climate change and protect poor and vulnerable peoples and nations. USCCB has stated, “At its core, global climate change is not about economic theory or political platforms, nor about partisan advantage or interest group pressures. It is about the future of God’s creation and the one human family.” We must take action now, grounded in both faith and reason, to mitigate climate change’s disastrous effects.

CLIMATE ACTION PROTECTS THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLES

Catholic teaching instructs us to put the needs of our poor and vulnerable neighbors first. The harm of climate impacts fall upon them disproportionately, though they contribute least to the cause of climate change. The Senate can help solve this injustice by passing legislation that dramatically reduces human caused greenhouse gas emissions, which are the cause and “original sin” of climate change.

CLIMATE ACTION PROMOTES ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, funded largely by oil and gas export profits, tragically demonstrates our need to move away from fossil fuel sources. Investments in renewable energy steer our nation and world away from dependence on fossil fuels and the geopolitical and climate instability that comes with it while providing new jobs and a more efficient future.

The sustainability of our long-term future requires a transition away from finite and polluting fossil fuel sources toward infinite and non-GHG emitting energy sources. The climate provisions providing \$555b for this necessary clean energy transition set our nation strongly on that path.

TOGETHER ON THE JOURNEY

The Catholic faith calls upon us to love both neighbor and adversary, and to uphold the life and dignity of every human person. We welcome opportunities to encounter you and others, building bridges across ideological differences. Thank you for meeting us. We hope and pray that you will join us in these efforts to care for the good of all people and our common home.

For more information, contact Jose Aguto or Henry Glynn

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