

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  
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  
Presentation Sisters San Francisco  
Presentation Sisters Union - US Unit  
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