

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

January 24, 2011

Dear Member of Congress,

As communities and people of faith, we are called to protect and serve God's great Creation and work for justice for all of God's people. We believe that the United States must take all appropriate and available actions to ensure the health of its communities. We therefore urge you to oppose any efforts to undermine the authority of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and allow the EPA to use the full strength of the law to ensure that God's creation and God's children remain healthy.

The CAA has a strong history of reducing pollution and protecting God's children and God's Creation, successfully decreasing the prevalence of acid rain, responding to health threatening smog and ozone problems faced in our major urban areas, and generally improving the air quality of our nation in the decades since its passage. It is only appropriate that the CAA remain available to address any and all air pollution-related challenges that we face. In 2007, the Supreme Court ruled that greenhouse gas emissions, the leading cause of climate change are, in fact, covered under the CAA and must be regulated if found to endanger public health or welfare by the EPA. New CAA regulations and requirements will also ensure that the largest emitters, such as power plants and large factories, use the best available technologies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and begin to shift to sustainable forms of energy.

The EPA, in its efforts to implement the CAA in an appropriate manner, has already issued a rule to exempt small carbon emitters and apply the requirements only to large sources that have long been subject to similar standards for other pollutants. Changing the Clean Air Act would limit the EPA's ability to live out its role and diminish the strength of the law. Some proposals, in both the House and Senate would allow our nation's substantial contribution to air pollution, including greenhouse gases, to continue unchecked, exposing vulnerable communities to increased health problems.

Any attempt to undermine the Clean Air Act threatens the well being of at risk communities, undermines efforts to shift to a sustainable energy future, and inevitably will impact the right of all of God's children to live in a healthy world. Congress should allow EPA to use the full strength of the Clean Air Act to protect God's Creation and God's people and focus instead on passing national energy policy and comprehensive climate legislation as a means to ensure a just and sustainable future for God's Creation.

Sincerely,

Church of the Brethren  
Church World Service  
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
The Episcopal Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Franciscan Action Network  
Interfaith Power and Light  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation  
National Council of Churches USA  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office  
Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness  
Presbyterians for Earth Care  
The Missionary Oblates, Justice Peace/Integrity of Creation Office  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
The United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society  
United Methodist Women

***State and Regional Groups***

Alaska Interfaith Power and Light  
Arizona Ecumenical Council Earth Care Commission  
Arizona Interfaith Power and Light  
Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light  
California Council of Churches  
California Council of Churches IMPACT  
California Interfaith Power and Light  
Colorado Council of Churches  
Connecticut's Interfaith Power and Light, a project of Interreligious Eco-Justice Network  
Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light  
Eco-Justice Ministries  
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns  
Faith in Place/Illinois Interfaith Power & Light  
Georgia Interfaith Power and Light  
Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light  
GreenFaith  
Hawaii Interfaith Power and Light  
Iowa Interfaith Power and Light  
Kansas Interfaith Power and Light  
Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light  
Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy in Minnesota  
Maine Council of Churches  
Maine Interfaith Power and Light  
Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light  
Michigan Interfaith Power and Light  
Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light  
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light  
New York Interfaith Power and Light  
North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light  
Ohio Interfaith Power and Light  
Oregon Interfaith Power and Light  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light  
Rhode Island Interfaith Power and Light  
Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light  
Texas Impact  
Utah Power and Light  
Vermont Interfaith Power and Light

Virginia Council of Churches  
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy  
Virginia Interfaith Power and Light  
Voices for Earth Justice (MI)  
Washington Association of Churches  
Wisconsin Council of Churches  
Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light