

## **Religious leaders comment on the letter sent to Congress in support of the Green Climate Fund**

**Shantha Ready Alonso, the executive director of Creation Justice Ministries**, said: “Christians in the United States support the Green Climate Fund not only because it is a moral imperative, but also because we know our charitable efforts are insufficient to meet the real needs we see. Christian relief and development organizations are on the front lines of coping with climate damage, often in the most vulnerable communities. We are doing everything we can to save lives threatened by drought, flooding, and severe weather. Far more lives will be saved with the Green Climate Fund.”

**Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobbs, chair of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life**, said: “Our uncontrolled carbon emissions have a huge and immoral impact on poorer communities. People of faith and morality must respond in two immediate ways: with needed reductions in society's carbon footprint, and with adaptation assistance to those most challenged by what we've wrought. We urge Congress to fund our share of the Green Climate Fund -- and ask all people of conscience to support this as a first necessary step in our return to climate morality, and global sustainability.”

**The Reverend Canon Sally Bingham, the founder and president of Interfaith Power & Light**, said: "As people of faith, we have a responsibility to consider the needs of others and to answer God’s call to care for the least among us. Those without the means to adapt to climate disruption or the ability to recover from devastating impacts like drought, flooding, and severe storms will require aid when disasters occur. These problems will only be exacerbated if we do not support climate resilience efforts now. The Green Climate Fund gives the U.S. a vehicle to do our share. Interfaith Power & Light, together with our affiliates and congregations around the country, strongly urge the U.S. Congress to support a contribution of \$750 million to the Green Climate Fund for 2017.”

**Diane Randall, executive secretary of the Friends Committee on National Legislation**, said: “Forty-two nations both rich and poor have pledged contributions to the Green Climate Fund, which places high priority on peoples whose livelihoods are harmed and threatened right now by climate disruption. The Fund reflects the aspirations of Martin Luther King, who said, ‘Every nation must now develop an overriding loyalty to mankind as a whole in order to preserve the best in their individual societies.’ We hope Congress will meet our nation’s pledge to the GCF, to reflect the good that is within American society.”

**Gerry Lee, director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns**, said: “Maryknoll missionaries, Catholic men and women who serve in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, see the impact of climate change on the lives of our sisters and brothers who are least able to respond to sea level rise and drought, from Tanzania to Bangladesh. Pope Francis recognizes that wealthy countries, like the United States, have a responsibility to developing countries to both prevent and respond to climate-related disasters. We urge Congress to support the \$750 million budget request for the Green Climate Fund to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable.”

**Bill O'Keefe, the vice president for Advocacy at Catholic Relief Service,** said: "The GCF is one of the most important vehicles that we have to help these poor communities – from subsistence farmers to those in the path of rising seas and devastating storms - develop the resilience they need in the face of climate change. We are pleased to join so many of our friends and colleagues in the faith community in asking that it be fully funded."

**The Reverend Canon C. K. Robertson, Ph.D., the canon to the presiding bishop for Ministry Beyond the Episcopal Church,** said: "As a faith group committed to safeguarding the integrity of creation, and sustaining and renewing the life of the earth, the Episcopal Church gives thanks for the good work being done by the Green Climate Fund and look forward to seeing that work flourish even more."

**Reverend Jane Field, the director of the Maine Council of Churches,** said "The Maine Council of Churches commends our Senator, Susan Collins, for her faithful commitment to ensuring the U.S. honors its pledge to the Green Climate Fund. We believe the GCF is essential to securing justice for developing countries struggling to cope with climate change. Much should be expected of the U.S., to whom so much has been given, and God calls us to be our brothers' and sisters' keepers as together we work for economic and climate justice."

**Scott Wright, director of the Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach,** said: "With Columban fathers serving in many of the countries and communities impacted most dramatically by climate change, we believe the Green Climate Fund is a crucial tool in supporting these vulnerable communities and living out our call to care for our common home. We urge the United States to heed, in Pope Francis' words, 'the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor' by continuing to take leadership in this critical endeavor."