



November 3, 2009

Tell Senators on Key Committees: Protect the Poor in Climate Legislation

Take Action Now! Contact your Senator now (<http://actioncenter.crs.org>) and urge that the *Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act* (S. 1733, the climate change bill) now being considered

- **Fully protect low-income individuals and families in the U.S. from any potential rise in the price of energy and other consumer goods** resulting from the legislation by providing the same level of funding for low-income assistance as in the House bill;
- **Significantly increase the funding for international adaptation programs.** At a minimum allocate \$3.5 billion of funding generated by the bill to international adaptation programs starting in 2012 and increase rapidly to \$7 billion annually by 2020 so that people living in poverty around the world can be protected from the effects of climate change.

Why is action important now? The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will likely vote on this climate change legislation this week. This begins a serious and overdue effort to face up to our moral and environmental challenges.

What is the Church's position? CRS, CCUSA and USCCB seek climate legislation that achieves two fundamental goals: care for creation and protecting the poor and vulnerable—both at home and abroad—who contribute least to climate change, but suffer its worst consequences. While we are encouraged by language in the Kerry-Boxer bill acknowledging the need to protect poor people worldwide, we are deeply concerned that the level of funding for these provisions is well below what is needed.

What does climate change have to do with my Catholic faith? The Catholic Church brings a unique voice to the climate change debate by lifting up both the moral dimensions of caring for God's creation and the needs of the most vulnerable among us. The Catholic bishops' primary concern is to place the life, dignity and needs of the poor and vulnerable at the center of climate legislation. Poor people should not bear an undue burden of the impacts of climate change or the global adjustments needed to address it. To learn about Catholic teaching on climate change, read the June 2001 statement by the United States Catholic Bishops, [Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good](#).

How is the Catholic Church confronting the effects of climate change? The Church promotes prudent action in the face of the growing impacts of global climate change and is seeking common ground for the common good in a very polarized debate. [CRS](#) has already witnessed the tragic consequences of climate change in the daily lives of people living in poverty and is working diligently to help affected communities through health, agriculture, water, and emergency preparedness programs in 100 countries. USCCB, CCUSA and CRS are members of the [Catholic Coalition on Climate Change \(CCCC\)](#) that invites Catholics to join the [Catholic Climate Covenant](#). Through the [Catholics Confront Global Poverty](#) initiative, USCCB and CRS are mobilizing one million Catholics to learn, pray and act in support of policies that will help address the effects of climate change on poor people worldwide.

TAKE ACTION NOW: Contact your senators (<http://actioncenter.crs.org>) below who are members of the Environment and Public Works, Foreign Relations and Finance Committees now - through e-mail, phone calls, or FAX letters.

John Kerry, MA (sponsor)
Barbara Boxer, CA (sponsor)
Richard Lugar, IN
Benjamin Cardin, MD
Joseph Lieberman, CT
Max Baucus, MT
Thomas R. Carper, DE
Frank R. Lautenberg, NJ
Bernard Sanders, VT
Amy Klobuchar, MN

Sheldon Whitehouse, RI
Tom Udall, NM
Jeff Merkley, OR
Kirsten Gillibrand, NY
Arlen Specter, PA
George Voinovich, OH
Lamar Alexander, TN
Robert Menendez, NJ
Bob Casey, PA

For more information, contact

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