



Franciscan Action Network

Transforming the World in the Spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare

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Franciscan Campaign on Climate Change

Changing Light bulbs, laws and lives

The spiritual and moral movement of St. Francis of Assisi and his early followers, begun more than 800 years ago, continues today. From this faith tradition, Franciscans and Franciscan-hearted people receive the insight that everything of the earth is of great value because it comes as a gift from the Creator. Accordingly, when faced with the challenge of global climate change, we cannot separate “nature” and “humans.” They are both interconnected in a balance we receive as an expression of the Incarnation, a reflection of God with us. Using our moral lens shaped through this Franciscan-inspired experience, we invite our Representative to:

Support the passage of H.R. 2454 *The American Clean Energy and Security Act.* The legislation includes positive measures; in particular, the proposal to directly distribute 15% of the emission allowance proceeds to low- and moderate-income families. However; two significant **improvements** are necessary to achieve a greater potential moral good:

- Increase the resources committed to international adaptation from 1% to 3.5% (to approximately \$3.5 billion) in the first year and ramp up the funding levels at a faster pace for future years. Franciscan communities serve persons who are poor throughout the world. The erratic nature of weather patterns and food production is already having a negative effect. We must provide adequate support to persons in need as our planet transitions through this time of instability.
- Improve the cap and trade system to achieve a more rapid rate of green house gas emission reduction by 2020. There is well-founded concern that the proposed level of decrease currently in the legislation may not be large enough to avert the most catastrophic effects of climate change. At a minimum, we believe that emissions must be reduced by 20% of 2005 levels by the year 2020.

The moral and economic cost of inaction

As people of faith, we recognize the economic cost of the work to reduce green house gas emissions. However, we are convinced that the price of inaction, doing nothing, will be even greater. Persons who are poor and vulnerable, both in the U.S. and beyond our shores, will bear the heaviest burden for the cost of inaction. Clearly, economic cost, at its foundation, is a moral issue. We cannot allow our concern for the short and mid-term transition costs associated with a more sustainable future to overshadow the human tragedy that will result from inaction.

Please support and IMPROVE H.R. 2454