

## **Urge Senators to Address Climate Change**

### **Tell Them to Add a Climate Change Amendment to the Energy Bill**

Call Now! 1-888-556-5790 (toll free)

June 14, 2005: Climate and energy issues have been at the heart of ecumenical and interfaith cooperation in the faith-based environmental movement. The ethical themes of stewardship and justice, and the basic principle of sustainability, are very prevalent when discussing climate/energy.

General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have repeatedly called for U.S. action to address climate change. In 2003, the 215th General Assembly passed a resolution that "calls on the United States government to join in the world effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions." (Minutes, PC(USA), p. 617)

Within the next week, the US Senate will be discussing and acting on its comprehensive energy bill. There will be votes on many important amendments, include climate legislation. Before the Senators vote, they need to hear voices from the religious community so that they can move this energy legislation in a positive direction and address climate change.

Call or email your two Senators within the next few days -- today if at all possible -- and voice your faithful commitments. Talk to them about two broad topics:

Climate change -- insist that the energy bill include provisions that will bring about a real reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the US. The McCain-Lieberman Climate Stewardship Act, is expected to be offered as an amendment to the energy bill. Urge your Senators to support the Climate Stewardship Act amendment, which will result in real reductions in emissions.

Renewable energy and energy efficiency -- insist that the energy bill focus on ways to reduce the use of fossil fuels, though energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy sources.

Call-in Tips: If you call your Senators' Washington, DC offices, ask to speak to the legislative aide who handles environmental issues. Your input will be more powerful through that channel. If you call a local office, you can leave a short message with the person who answers the phone.

Talking Points: Don't be afraid to speak of the ways that your faith and the PC(USA)'s teachings on restoring creation shape your concern about these policies. Don't feel that you need to be an expert on technical policy questions -- your core convictions are what need to be heard.

You can find out the names and phone numbers of your Senators, go to <http://capwiz.com/pcusa/dbq/officials/>.

As people of faith, we are called to responsible stewardship of God's wondrous creation. Advocacy on the comprehensive energy bill that addresses climate change is one important part of our discipleship.

Thank you for contacting your Senators on this very important legislation.

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Washington, D.C. 20002, (202) 543-1126, [www.pcusa.org/washington/](http://www.pcusa.org/washington/) For more information about the content of this article, please e-mail Carolynn Race, at [crace@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:crace@ctr.pcusa.org).

If you are not a member of our SPL networks, but would like to be, please click [\[here\]](#).

Dear Senator,

In 1990, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) passed a resolution, "Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice." In it, the Assembly declared, "Restoring Creation is God's work in our time, in which God comes both to judge and to restore."

Among the most urgent and important priorities facing our world today are our dependence on non-renewable resources and the devastating impact of greenhouse gas emissions. As you consider the Energy Policy Act of 2005, please do everything you can to help address these twin challenges.

Congress must act to make conservation, improved efficiency, and renewable fuels a top national priority. Enacting the McCain-Lieberman Climate Stewardship Act and minimum renewable energy standards for electric utilities would help our country reduce harmful CO2 emissions even further.

Now is the time for Congress to set a new course toward a more secure, safe, and sustainable energy future—one that includes provisions to address climate change. I urge you to act now on these important issues.

Sincerely,