

November 19, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden,

We submit the attached Faith Principles for a Green New Deal for the November 20, 2019 hearing on "Building a 100 Percent Clean Economy: The Challenges Facing Frontline Communities." These principles were prepared by the Washington Interfaith Staff Community-Ecology and Environment Working Group.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Lacock-Nisly
Federal Policy Associate
Interfaith Power & Light

Faith Principles for a Green New Deal

Washington Interfaith Staff Community-Ecology and Environment Working Group, March 1, 2019 - List of organizations that have endorsed the principles are below

The introduction of the Green New Deal resolution in the 116th Congress presents a profound moral opportunity. Collectively, we have the chance to respond to the ecological and economic crises facing our shared home with bold and hopeful action. As people of faith and conscience, we are called to care for this world and its people. Climate change presents a grave danger to our neighbors at home and across the globe, to the ecosystems that sustain life, and to future generations. Hurricanes, droughts, wildfires, and floods are devastating the lives and livelihoods of millions, with the greatest impact felt by those who are least able to adapt. We know that inaction is harmful.

We believe the principles outlined below are central to responding faithfully to the opportunity to achieve the goals of the Green New Deal.

Truth and science: Solutions that are in line with scientific consensus on global warming and that respond with the needed urgency and thoroughness, including:

- Emissions reductions targets consistent with the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, achieving significant progress by 2030.
- A comprehensive response that moves all sectors of our economy toward net-zero emissions by 2050.

Restoration and renewal: Economic and environmental revitalization that includes job programs, skills training, education, investment in a clean energy economy and just transition for both urban and rural areas, with a focus on:

- The economically disenfranchised, people of color, indigenous communities, and women, who are disproportionately facing environmental degradation.
- Reclamation and restoration of land and water adversely affected by fossil fuel production and processing.
- The steadily-rising economic inequality and the opportunity for a clean energy economy to help counter these trends.

Compassion and fairness: Just treatment for all including workers and communities most dependent on fossil fuel energy, incorporating:

- A posture of listening and learning from those who have been reliant on fossil fuels, and a recognition for their contributions to society.
- Opportunities for clean, healthy, family-supporting jobs that heal our planet.
- Transformation for our communities to be more prepared for extreme weather events, and more resilient to a changing climate in the long term.

Interdependence across boundaries: Sacred dialogue across political, geographic, racial and cultural boundaries, including:

- Support for vulnerable communities around the world that are on the front lines of climate impacts.
- Learning from clean energy successes around the world and sharing our country's technology to help other countries adopt appropriate clean energy solutions.

As the warming in our world continues unabated, our local and global neighbors are suffering and dying from the effects of global warming. Urgent action is needed.

Many of our traditions call us to be prophetic voices, responding to injustice with a vision of how our world can be more loving, healthy, and equitable. We hope, pray, and advocate that any legislation written to achieve the goals of the Green New Deal will address the urgency of the climate crisis and seize the opportunity to create a new, more just and livable world for communities and our sacred Creation.

As of closing date March 1, endorsed by:

National Organizations:

Africa Faith & Justice Network

American Friends Service Committee

Center on Conscience & War

Church World Service

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life

Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach

Conference of Major Superiors of Men

Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces

Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes

Creation Justice Ministries

Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise

Dominican Sisters of Peace

Dominican Sisters of Sparkill

Faith in Public Life

Franciscan Action Network

Friends Committee on National Legislation

GreenFaith

Green The Church

Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart

Higher Ground Initiative

Hospital Sisters of St. Francis

ICCR (Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility)

Interfaith Power & Light

Leadership Conference of Women Religious

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment
Office of Social Justice, Christian Reformed Church in North America
Plainsong Farm & Ministry
Rabbinical Assembly
School Sisters of Notre Dame - Central Pacific Province JPIC Office
Sisters of Bon Secours, USA
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Institute Justice Team
Sisters of Mercy South Central Community
Sisters of St. Joseph
Sisters of St. Mary of Namur
Sisters of the Holy Cross
Sojourners
Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Association
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ)
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Methodist Women
Xaverian Brothers

State/Local Organizations:

Alabama Interfaith Power and Light
Alameda Interfaith Climate Action Network
Arkansas Interfaith Power & Light
Arizona Interfaith Power & Light
ARTivism Virginia

Benedictine Sisters of Erie

Buffalo Diocese Care for Creation Committee

California Interfaith Power & Light

Center for Spirituality, Action, and Transformation

Church Women United in New York State

Dominican Sisters - Grand Rapids

Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light

Ecological Integrity Committee of the Sisters of St. Joseph

Faith in Place Action Fund/IL Interfaith Power & Light

Interfaith Climate Action Network of Contra Costa County

The Hellenion Proto-demos tes Hagnes Persephones

Holy Cross Retreat Center

Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)

JPIC Department Atlantic Midwest Province School Sisters of Notre Dame

Jewish Climate Action Network - MA

Jewish Climate Action Network - NYC

Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light

Leadership Team of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods Indiana

Lewinsville Faith in Action

Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light

Metro New York Catholic Climate Movement

Michigan Interfaith Power & Light

Missouri Interfaith Power and Light

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light

Moral Mondays on D.O.G. Street

North Carolina Council of Churches

North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light

New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light

New York Interfaith Power & Light

Ohio Interfaith Power & Light

Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light

Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Justice Team

Sisters of St. Francis Charitable Trust, Dubuque

Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston

Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester Justice Office

Sisters of the Presentations

Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy/Texas Impact

Unitarian Universalist Mass Action Network

Virginia Interfaith Power & Light

Vermont Interfaith Power & Light

Water is life. Protect it.

West Virginia Interfaith Power & Light

Wisconsin Interfaith Power & Light