

March 15, 2023

Mr. Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Regan,

As national and state religious leaders, we are united in our commitment to work towards justice. Justice for those living in poverty, for those that are being oppressed, and for God's creation. We join together to call for the protection of God's Earth and God's people from the impacts of climate change and environmental pollution.

The faith community is deeply concerned about climate change and pollution because we believe that every individual is made in God's image and has inherent dignity. We also believe in the sacredness of God's Creation and that humans have a duty to act as faithful stewards of the Earth. We are witness to the catastrophic effects of climate change and the environmental injustices that occur alongside our hurting home. We fully support President Biden's ambitious climate goals, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions 50-52% below 2005 levels in 2030, and encourage the Administration to continue to work towards these vital milestones.

Because the cars and trucks we drive account for [83% of the greenhouse gas emissions](#) from the transportation sector and [55% of total nitrogen oxide](#) (NOx) emissions in the United States, it is imperative that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) swiftly issue rules regulating and strengthening car and truck emission standards.

Not only does vehicle pollution significantly contribute to climate change, it also has a disproportionately negative impact on low-wealth communities and communities of color. Because of historic discriminatory practices such as redlining, the average concentration of air pollution exposure from vehicles is [over 60% greater for residents of color](#) than for white residents in the United States. Exposure to pollutants from vehicles can have [devastating health impacts](#) and is known to cause cardiovascular, respiratory, neurological, immune, and even reproductive system damage.

Our faith traditions mandate that we speak up when we witness injustice. In order to protect public health, advance environmental justice, and steward our common home for generations to come, we urge the EPA to prioritize issuing clean car and truck standards.

Sincerely,

Rev. Jeffrey S. Allen, West Virginia Council of Churches

Bishop Carroll Baltimore, Global United Fellowship, Virginia
Rev. Copeland, North Carolina Council of Churches
Rev. Carol Devine Green Chalice, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Kentucky
Rev. Mary Anne Glover, General Minister, Virginia Council of Churches
Faith Harris, Executive Director, Virginia Interfaith Power & Light
Rev. Russell Meyer, Executive Director, Florida Council of Churches
Phoebe Morad, Executive Director, Lutherans for Restoring Creation, Massachusetts
Bee Moorhead, Executive Director, Texas Impact
Codi Norred, Executive Director, Georgia Interfaith Power & Light