

***** BEGINNING OF MESSAGE *****

NAME: Rev. Dr. Clare Butterfield

TITLE: Executive Director, Faith in Place and Illinois Interfaith Power & Light

EMAIL ADDRESS: clare@faithinplace.org

PHONE: 312-733-4640

ORGANIZATION: Faith in Place/Illinois Interfaith Power & Light

COMMENTS: To the Honorable Midwestern Governors:

Rod Blagojevich of Illinois

Chet Culver of Iowa

Mitch Daniels of Indiana

Jim Doyle of Wisconsin

Jennifer Granholm of Michigan

Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota

M. Michael Rounds of South Dakota

Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas

Ted Strickland of Ohio

Dear Midwestern Governors,

The undersigned religious leaders respectfully submit these comments regarding your implementation of the Midwestern Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord.

As representatives of the faith community we believe that it is our responsibility to care for God's creation by acting as stewards of the world we have been blessed with. The threat of global warming is a matter of increasing concern for the faith community and other persons of good will. Global warming threatens to push endangered species toward the brink of extinction by jeopardizing the stability of delicate and unique ecosystems like coral reefs, rainforests, grasslands, and freshwater marine habitat. The decisions we make today to address global warming will determine the health of the planet for generations to come.

As people of faith, we further believe that it is our responsibility to share God's gifts equitably and ensure the highest quality of life for all individuals today and for generations to come. In addition to the unnatural changes occurring to the Earth itself, global warming has a disproportionately adverse effect on low-income communities throughout the world. Those with the least resources to adapt to a changing environment contribute little to the problem of global warming. As a developed region, it is our responsibility to correct this injustice by leading the way and working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions today.

For these reasons, we believe it is our moral responsibility to mitigate the consequences of global warming by enacting strong regional policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

There are several key policy recommendations that you are considering that we feel are important to emphasize:

1. Targets:

It is important that any plan to address global warming is designed to reflect the reduction needs outlined by the scientific community. The consensus agreement of more than 2,000 leading climatologists and scientists in the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report calls for an 80% reduction in global warming emissions from current levels. Several recent reports including one from noted climate researcher James Hansen indicate that even more aggressive cuts may be necessary to stabilize our climate. In the interest of being good stewards of the earth we must heed these recommendations and establish goals that require at least an 80% reduction in the Midwest's global warming emissions by 2050.

2. A Strong Cap & Trade Program:

This is the most important policy recommendation since it will deliver the greatest amount of global warming emission reductions. This must be a strong program with science-based reduction targets that are not compromised by the use of offsets or other potential loopholes. It is important that polluters are not rewarded for their previous pollution by simply giving away allowances or creating an artificial price cap on pollution credits.

Auctioning 100 percent of pollution credits will generate revenue that can be used to support energy efficiency projects in low income communities and reduce rate impacts on low income families. Making those investments as soon as possible will help to reduce energy bills, ensure that the rising cost of energy does not fall disproportionately on low income communities, and simultaneously achieve major reductions in global warming emissions.

3. Establish Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee to Examine Impact of Cap and Trade on Low Income Communities:

While we must reduce greenhouse emissions to minimize the most harmful consequences of global warming on low-income communities throughout the world, we must do so in a fair and equitable way. We therefore recommend establishing an advisory committee to examine the impact of a cap and trade system on low income communities. This committee should include representatives from low-income and faith communities, as well as other interested stakeholders, to provide recommendations to minimize harmful economic consequences on low-income communities.

We appreciate the hard work that has already gone into the process and understand the complexity of these issues. We hope that these recommendations help guide the development of a strong regional greenhouse gas reduction plan that will equitably protect God's creation and minimize the impact of global warming on low-income communities.

Sincerely yours,
Katherine Aynilian
United Methodist Church

Rev. Dwight Bailey

Pastor, Austin Boulevard Christian Church Oak Park, IL

Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher
DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church
Naperville, IL

Jim Benn
Eden United Church of Christ
Chicago, IL

Janice Benson, MD
Cook Co. Health Systems
Chicago, IL

Rev. Liala Beukema
Lake View Lutheran Church
Chicago, IL

Sr. Dolores Blahaus
Helpers of the Holy Souls
Homer Glen, IL

Rev. Kathleen Bleyaert
St. John's United Church of Christ
Waukegan, IL

Rev. William Bordonaro
Bethany UCC
Chicago, IL

Elizabeth Bowen
St. Luke's Church, Logan Square
Chicago, IL

Rev. Leslie Bradshaw
Minister, Unity Church of Practical Christianity Springfield, IL

Nancy Brandt
St. Paul UCC
Chicago, IL

Dr. David Breeden
Consulting Minister, United Unitarian & Universalist Society of Mukwonago
Mukwonago, WI

Rev. Mamie Broadhurst
Associate Pastor, First United Church of Oak Park Oak Park, IL

David Buchanan
Lawndale Community Church
Chicago, IL

Joy Bunton
Trinity UCC
Oak Park, IL

Sheila T. Burris
Epworth United Methodist
Elgin, IL

Rev. Dr. Clare Butterfield
Faith in Place/Illinois Interfaith Power & Light Chicago, IL

Wallis Calaway
Woodridge United Methodist
Woodridge, IL

Gloria Camcam
Mont Clare UCC
Chicago, IL

Rev. Meigan Cameron
Epiphany Episcopal Church
Chicago, IL

Rev. Walter Carlson
Melrose Chapel UMC
Quincy, IL

William Chalberg
First United Methodist
Downers Grove, IL

Rev. Erik Christensen
St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square Chicago, IL

Dr. Larry Colvin
Interim Pastor, St. John's UCC
Union, IL

Rev. Brian E. Cope
Congregational Church of Algonquin UCC
Algonquin, IL

Robert Crowe
Winnetka Presbyterian Church
Winnetka, IL

Amy Curry
Libertyville UMC
Grayslake, IL

Rev. Joseph Czolgosz
Mission and Spiritual Care, Advocate Health Park Ridge, IL

The Rev. Alice and Mr. Bill Davenport
First Presbyterian of Macomb
Macomb, IL

Kevin Davey
LaSalle Street Church
Chicago, IL

Rev. Jonathan Dean
Associate Pastor, First United Methodist Church Downers Grove, IL

Rev. Ted Durst
Episcopal Diocese of Chicago
Chicago, IL

Rev. M.E. Eccles
St. Simon's Episcopal Church
Arlington Heights, IL

Patricia Eichenold
Unity of Oak Park
Oak Park, IL

Laurie Empen
Chicago, IL

Rev. Bob Ford
Peoples Church of Chicago
Chicago, IL

Sandra Franz
Chicago, IL

Rev. Beth Freese Dammers
Yorkville Presbyterian Church
Elmhurst, IL

Laura Dean F. Friedrich
Holy Covenant United Methodist
Chicago, IL

John Gabriel
Springfield, IL

Rev. Dr. Franklin Gamwell
Hyde Park Union Church
Chicago, IL

Penny Gillen
Gary Memorial United Methodist
Wheaton, IL

Rev. Jennifer Gleichauf
Chicago, IL

Jeff Glenn
Lake View Presbyterian Church
Chicago, IL

Kathy Goble
Lakeview Presbyterian
Chicago, IL

Rabbi Sam Gordon
Wilmette, IL

Green Sanctuary Committee
Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist Palatine, IL

Green Team
Old St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church
Chicago, IL

Green Team
Unity Church of Practical Christianity
Springfield, IL

Rev. Ray Greenfield
First Christian Church
Lewistown, IL

Susan Greenwood
IL

Rev. Denise Griebler
Pastor, St. Michael's UCC
West Chicago, IL

William Hastings
Lake View Presbyterian Church
Chicago, IL

Heidi Haverkamp
Episcopal Church of St. Benedict
Bolingbrook, IL

Kenneth Henderson
Winnetka Congregational
Winnetka, IL

Sonya Hirschberg
Hyde Park Union Church
Chicago, IL

Rev. Laura Sova Hogle
First Congregational UCC
Downers Grove, IL

Rev. William Hogle
First Congregational UCC
Downers Grove, IL

Dr. Mike Hogue
Meadville Lombard Theological School
Chicago, IL

Michelle Holder
St. Paul UCC
Chicago, IL

Rev. Laura Hollinger
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Chicago, IL

Sally Hundley
Mt. Vernon, IL

Rev. David Inglis
Associate Minister, First Congregational Church UCC Crystal Lake, IL

Jann Ingmire
The Chicago Temple, UMC
Chicago, IL

Iowa Interfaith Power & Light
Des Moines, IA

Wayne Jacobsen
Community Church of Barrington
Lake Barrington, IL

Barbara Jones
Christ Church Winnetka
Winnetka, IL

Linda Jones
First Presbyterian
Rockford, IL

Ann Joseph
University Church of Hyde Park
Chicago, IL

Sr. Sue Kilduski, OSB
St. Scholastica Monastery

Chicago, IL

Rev. Dale Klitze
Rector, Grace Episcopal Church
Menomonie, WI

Randall Kooistra
St. Paul UCC
Chicago, IL

Karen Kress
Oak Park, IL

Sara Lindstrom
Holy Covenant United Methodist
Chicago, IL

Peggy Ma
Wesley UMC, Social Concerns Comm.
Macomb, IL

Nicole Macaluso
IL Conference of UCC
Chicago, IL

Rev. Wendy Matthewson
Presbyterian Church USA
Chicago, IL

Melissa and Bill McWherter
Deerfield, IL

Cicely Michalak
Saints Faith, Hope and Charity (RC)
Winnetka, IL

Cathy Mikes
First United Methodist
Downers Grove, IL

John C. Modschiedler
University Church of Hyde Park
Chicago, IL

Marilynn & Dennis Moisio
First Congregational UCC
Waukegan, IL

Fred Montgomery
First Presbyterian
Lake Forest, IL

Kirk Moore
IL

Rev. Calvin Morris
Galewood Community UMC
Chicago, IL

Marianne Nesler
Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church
Chicago, IL

Emily Newton
Edgebrook Lutheran Church
Chicago, IL

Rev. Kathy North
Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Oak Park, IL

Courtney O'Brien
Covenant Presbyterian
Chicago, IL

Cathryn O'Brien
Libertyville UMC
Libertyville, IL

Miley Palmer
Decatur, IL

Rev. Brooke Peterson
Irving Park Lutheran Church
Chicago, IL

Rev. Jeffrey Phillips
St. John UCC
Arlington Hts., IL

Elizabeth Baldwin Phillips
First Congregational Church
Wilmette, IL

Rev. Jorge Pixley
First Baptist Church of Claremont
Claremont, CA

Catriona Portillo
Fourth Presbyterian Church
Chicago, IL

Rev. Megan M. Ramer
Chicago Community Mennonite Church

Chicago, IL

Vicki Reynolds
Fourth Presbyterian Church, PCG Board
Chicago, IL

Renee Richel-Kringlie
Indian Head Park, IL

Rabbi Brant Rosen
Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation
Evanston, IL

Linda Roy
Presbyterian Church, USA
Rockford, IL

Rev. Jen Rude
Associate Pastor, Resurrection Lutheran Church Chicago, IL

Father Darrell Rupiper, OMI
Representing the Missionaries of Mary Immaculate Justice and Peace and Integrity
of Creation Committee of the U.S Chicago, IL

Michelle Saddler
Protestants for the Common Good Board
Evanston, IL

Mickey Safstrom
Glenview Community Church
Glenview, IL

Jan Salzman
President, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Oak Park, IL

Ernie and Patricia Sammann
Urbana, IL

Richard and Judy Sawdey
Winnetka Presbyterian Church
Wilmette, IL

Rev. Frank Senn
Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church
Evanston, IL

Ed Shurna
Shiel Center
Chicago, IL

Pastor Fernando Siaba
Humboldt Park United Methodist Church

Chicago, IL

Dawn M. Smith
St. Timothy Lutheran Church
Midland, MI

Joy Sobczak
Community UMC
Naperville, IL

Thomas Stinchcomb
St. Paul UCC
Chicago, IL

Jerry Stromberg
LaSalle Street Church
Chicago, IL

Rev. Mark Sundberg
Peace Lutheran Church
Lake Zurich, IL

Jim Swanson
Lake View Presbyterian Church
Chicago, IL

Kenneth Swanson
Waukegan, IL

Sandra Taenzer
First Congregational, UCC
Elgin, IL

Rev. Rose Carol Taul
St. Luke Presbyterian
Downers Grove, IL

Rev. Alan Taylor
Senior Pastor, Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation Oak Park, IL

Amy Terpstra
Chicago, IL

Joy Thorbjornsen-Coates
Berry Memorial UMC
Chicago, IL

Ronald Timmer
United Church of Christ
Mitchell, IL

Susan Turner

St. John's Episcopal Church, Genesis Group Chicago, IL

Rev. Larry Turpin
United Church of Hyde Park
Chicago, IL

Social Mission Committee Unity Temple
Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation Oak Park, IL

Rev. Ruth Van Demark
Wicker Park Lutheran Church
Chicago, IL

Rev. Kara Wagner Sherer
St. John's Episcopal Church
Chicago, IL

Mark Walden
Ellis Ave. Church
Chicago, IL

Rev. John Watson
Associate Pastor, First Evangelical Free Church Chicago, IL

Rev. Benjamin Webb
Rector, St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Cedar Falls, IA

Julia Weertman
First Congregational Church
Evanston, IL

Rev. Steve Welker
Christian Church of Arlington Heights
Arlington Heights, IL

Robert B. Wilcox
Christ Church Winnetka, PCG Board
Evanston, IL

Rev. James Will
Garrett-Evangelical Seminary, Prof. Emeritus Elk Grove Village, IL

Diaconal Minister Kim Winchell
Earthkeeping Ministries North / West Lower MI Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America Freeland, MI

Jill Wood-Naatz
Our Redeemer UMC
Schaumburg, IL

***** END OF MESSAGE *****