

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

November 23, 2010

Dear Senator,

As communities and people of faith, we are called to protect and serve God's great Creation and work for justice for all of God's people. We believe that the United States must take all appropriate and available actions to prevent the worst impacts of climate change; we therefore urge you to oppose any efforts to undermine the authority of the Clean Air Act (CAA) to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. We have seen various challenges to the CAA this session including Senator Rockefeller's proposal to delay regulation of greenhouse gases under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We urge you to protect the Clean Air Act and allow the EPA to use the full strength of the law to ensure that God's creation and God's children remain healthy.

The CAA has a strong history of reducing pollution and protecting God's children and God's Creation, successfully decreasing the prevalence of acid rain, responding to health threatening smog and ozone problems faced in our major urban areas, and generally improving the air quality of our nation in the decades since its passage. It is only appropriate that the CAA continue to oversee any and all air-related challenges that we face. In 2007, the Supreme Court ruled that greenhouse gas emissions, the leading cause of climate change are, in fact, covered under the CAA and could be regulated by the EPA. New CAA regulations limiting greenhouse gas emissions will also ensure that the largest emitters, such as power plants and factories, use the best available technologies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and begin to shift to sustainable forms of energy.

The EPA, in its efforts to implement the CAA in an appropriate manner, has already proposed to tailor the CAA to exempt small carbon emitters and apply them only to large sources that have long been subject to similar standards for other pollutants. Further changes to the Clean Air Act would limit the EPA's ability to live out its role and diminish the strength of the law. Senator Rockefeller's bill, and other proposals, would allow our nation's substantial contribution to global climate change to continue unchecked, exposing vulnerable communities to the impacts of climate change. In addition, this attempt to undermine the authority of the EPA and the CAA to regulate greenhouse gas emissions will interfere with an effective U.S. response to this global crisis.

Any attempt to undermine the Clean Air Act threatens the well being of at risk communities, undermines efforts to shift to a sustainable energy future, and inevitably will impact the right of all of God's children to live in a healthy world. Congress should instead focus its efforts on passing comprehensive climate legislation and national energy policy as a means to ensure a just and sustainable future for God's Creation.

Sincerely,

Church of the Brethren  
Church World Service  
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
The Episcopal Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Franciscan Action Network

Interfaith Power and Light  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation  
National Council of Churches USA  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office  
Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness  
The Missionary Oblates, Justice Peace/Integrity of Creation Office  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
The United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society  
United Methodist Women

### **State and Regional Groups**

Arizona Interfaith Power and Light  
California Council of Churches  
California Council of Churches IMPACT  
Connecticut's Interfaith Power and Light, a project of Interreligious Eco-Justice Network  
Earth Ministry  
Eco-Justice Ministries  
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns  
The Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut  
Faith in Place  
Georgia Interfaith Power and Light  
Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light  
GreenFaith  
Illinois Interfaith Power & Light  
Iowa Interfaith Power and Light  
Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light  
Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy in Minnesota  
Maine Council of Churches  
Maine Interfaith Power and Light  
Michigan Interfaith Power and Light  
Minnesota Council of Churches  
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light  
North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Presbyterians for Earth Care  
Rhode Island Interfaith Power and Light  
Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light  
Texas Impact  
Virginia Interfaith Center  
Virginia Interfaith Power and Light  
Voices for Earth Justice (MI)  
Washington Association of Churches  
Washington Interfaith Power and Light  
Wisconsin Council of Churches  
Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light

