

SAINT PETER'S CHURCH

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Representative, New York 12th District
1651 3rd Avenue, Suite 311
New York, NY 10128-3679

October 27, 2021

Dear Congresswoman Maloney,

I write to thank you for your response to the loss of the Clean Electricity Performance Program (CEPP) from the Build Back Better (BBB) Act. Your October 22 letter to President Biden makes clear you understand the existential threat we face from climate change as well as your commitment to do something about it. Be assured of the prayers of the people of Saint Peter's for your strong and sustained leadership.

We are committed to climate action both as New Yorkers and as people of faith. God created humankind not to exploit and plunder, but to care for the earth because the earth is, as Pope Francis wrote in his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si*, "our common home." Yet, care for creation is not solely Christian theology, but a bedrock principle in Judaism and Islam, and in other religions across the world. So, too, is the principle to care for and lift up the least among us. We believe climate action must take an extra measure of responsibility for the sake of communities where life-threatening levels of pollution and deleterious effects of climate change are especially pronounced due to systemic poverty, discrimination and neglect.

As your letter to President Biden so rightly asserts, "the climate crisis is here and it is an emergency." This is an emergency which calls for the most urgent and boldest of leadership. The upcoming COP26 summit could be among the last opportunities for governments to take action before it is too late to secure a livable climate. I urge you and your colleagues to do everything possible to ensure President Biden arrives in Glasgow with a plan for transformational investment in climate action.

With you and many persons of faith, we pray that the United States and other governments will promote environmental, racial and economic justice, and support transitioning workers. Redressing the devastating health and economic impacts of toxic pollution, primarily in communities of color (so-called "sacrifice zones"), is crucial. Replacing lead pipes across the country, strengthening community engagement under the National Environmental Policy Act, and cleaning up Superfund and other polluted sites is long overdue. That these actions can be taken while increasing good-paying, union jobs and expanding the manufacturing economy of the United States is one of the many reasons a majority of people across this nation are ready for Congress to act.

Thank you for your leadership and bold vision: climate action, good-paying union jobs and a more just economy. And, still more than this. Legislation that allows President Biden to commit the U.S. to historic climate investment at Glasgow will give life to us all.

Sincerely,



Jared R. Stahler
Senior Pastor

