

September 22, 2009



Urge key Senators to significantly increase funding for international adaptation programs in climate change legislation

ACTION ALERT

Take Action Now! Contact your Senator now (<http://actioncenter.crs.org>) and urge that any climate change legislation considered in the Senate allocate \$3.5 billion of funding generated by the bill to international adaptation programs starting in 2012 and increase rapidly to \$7 billion annually by 2020 so that people living in poverty around the world can be protected from the effects of climate change.

Why is action important now? The Senate Environment and Public Works, Finance, and Foreign Relations Committees responsible for climate change policy will soon consider legislation that begins a serious and overdue effort to face up to our moral and environmental challenges. The House of Representatives has already passed climate change legislation, the *American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009*.

What is the Church's position? Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) want to ensure that any climate change bill lowers greenhouse gases and protects the poor and vulnerable—both at home and abroad—who contribute least to climate change but are likely to suffer its worst consequences.

While CRS and USCCB appreciate several provisions in the House's bill, we are deeply disappointed that the funding committed to international adaptation—only 1% of available resources, or approximately \$700 million—falls fundamentally short of what is needed initially and that increases in resources are pushed too far off into the future. We therefore urge Senate Committee members to ensure that the Senate's bill include at least \$3.5 billion of available funding for international adaptation programs that will help poor and vulnerable people adapt to the effects of climate change.

What does climate change have to do with my Catholic faith? The Catholic Church brings a distinct perspective to the debate about climate change by lifting up the moral dimensions of caring for God's creation and the needs of the most vulnerable among us. Our Catholic faith calls on us to uphold the life and dignity of the human person by alleviating human suffering and promoting justice and solidarity worldwide.

The Catholic bishops' primary concern is to place the needs of the poor and vulnerable at the center of climate legislation. Poor people should not bear an undue burden of the impacts of climate change or the global adjustments needed to address it. To learn about Catholic teaching on climate change read the June 2001 statement by the Catholic bishops in the United States, [Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good](#).

How is the Catholic Church confronting the effects of climate change? The Church's efforts promote prudent action to address the growing impact of global climate change and to pursue the common good in a very polarized debate. CRS has already witnessed the tragic consequences of climate change in the daily lives of people living in poverty. [CRS](#) is working diligently to help communities adapt to the consequences of climate change and mitigate its effects through health, agriculture, water, and emergency preparedness programs, and its relief and development efforts in 100 countries.

Through the [Catholics Confront Global Poverty](#) initiative, USCCB and CRS are mobilizing one million Catholics to learn, pray and act in support of policies that will help address the effects of climate change on poor people worldwide.

For more information contact:

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