



Protecting Creation, Generation to Generation

COEJLAction: President Bush's Energy Plan

“Let There Be Light”(Gen 1:3): An Interfaith Call for Energy Conservation and Climate Justice

Your help is needed to ensure that perspectives of faith and values help shape the national discussion on energy policy.

On May 18, 2001, thirty-nine of the nation's most senior religious leaders released an open letter to President Bush, the Congress and the American people, calling for moral reflection on the country's energy policy. Describing conservation as a "personal and a public virtue - a comprehensive moral value," they urged that all Americans "reflect carefully and speak clearly from their deepest moral and religious convictions about the President's recently announced energy plan."

While the President's energy plan does offer some new programs and investment in conservation and efficiency, the plan does not yet meet Biblical standards of stewardship and justice. It will not help the environment, it will not protect our health, it will not do much for low income people with high energy bills, it won't help consumers facing blackouts and high gasoline prices, and it won't even help us be less dependent on foreign oil.

The President's plan doesn't even acknowledge the most lasting impact of our energy policy - its effect on global warming. Global warming is a proven fact, and it threatens the whole planet, especially poor people around the world. The President's plan is just another step in his retreat on global warming. It's only going to make the planet hotter.

Conservation is a personal and a public virtue, a comprehensive moral value, through which we fulfill obligations to our Creator, creation itself, future generations, and people around the world. Energy conservation is faithful stewardship of creation. Energy conservation is intergenerational responsibility. And in light of global warming, energy conservation is justice for all people and all nations. Conservation should be the foundation of our national energy policy.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Answering the call of our nation's most senior religious leaders, tell President Bush that we have "a moral obligation to choose the safest, cleanest and most sustainable sources of energy to protect and preserve God's creation."

Sign the attached postcard to President Bush. And pass out postcards in your synagogues and community centers and to people attending "Let There Be Light" events in your community. COEJL will forward postcards in bulk to President Bush just before the International Climate Negotiations: COP 6.5 in Bonn, July 16-22, 2001.

For further information, contact Ariana Silverman, COEJL legislative assistant in Washington, D.C., at: coejlindc@coejl.org or 202.387.2800 ext. 29.