

Baptist Center for Ethics

Baptist Letter to United States House of Representatives Calling for Support of “The American Clean Energy and Security Act”

June 18, 2009

We are Baptist pastors, denominational leaders, ethicists and theologians who are committed to pursuing the twin moral imperatives to care for the poor and for creation, two imperatives drawn from an abundance of passages in the Bible. Planet Earth is the Lord's and we are caretakers of it. When we guard the environment, we also protect the marginalized and those most vulnerable to droughts, floods, deteriorating ecosystems and diseases.

We believe “The American Clean Energy and Security Act,” a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives, advances practically the moral demands to care for the earth and its poorest inhabitants.

We understand that this bill is a comprehensive one that promises to create millions of clean energy jobs, to advance American security from foreign oil, to protect the planet by capping global-warming gases, to increase electricity from renewable energy sources and to improve energy efficiency.

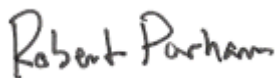
We are thankful this bill provides support to help the global poor adapt to the impacts of climate change. We wish the bill provided more funding to help the marginalized and those most at risk—those least responsible for climate change. Nonetheless, an imperfect bill will not keep us from speaking up and encouraging our fellow church members to support this legislation. We are determined that the tyranny of moral perfectionism will not block the urgency of moral realism.

Our letter today is a continuation of that earlier moral witness.

On April 28, 2008, more than 140 Baptist leaders from 25 states and the District of Columbia endorsed a Baptist Center for Ethics letter calling on the U.S. Senate to pass climate-change legislation. That letter applauded Senators John Warner and Joseph Lieberman for introducing bi-partisan legislation and the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works "for beginning to address this important moral issue."

We call today on the U.S. House of Representatives to strengthen and to pass without delay “The American Clean Energy and Security Act.”

Sincerely,



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