**Climate Change**

**Rationale *-*** *A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. . . . Everything is connected.* *Pope Francis,* [*Laudato Si'*](javascript:showDisclaimer('http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html',870);)

*The notion of the common good also extends to future generations. We can no longer speak of sustainable development apart from intergenerational solidarity. Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us.  Pope Francis,* [*Laudato Si'*](javascript:showDisclaimer('http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html',1057);)

*The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole. The natural resources of those poorer countries “fuel” the development of the richer countries “at the cost of their own present and future”*

*Pope Benedict XVI,* [*Caritas in Veritate*](javascript:showDisclaimer('http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20090629_caritas-in-veritate_en.html',1283);)*’*

*A true concept of development cannot ignore the use of the elements of nature, the renewability of resources and the consequences of haphazard industrialization - three considerations which alert our consciences to the moral dimension of development.* Pope St John Paul II, *On Social Concerns*

“The Scriptures affirm the value of caring for creation and caring for each other; the Paris agreement is an international accord that promotes these values. The decision (to withdraw) will harm the people of the United States and the world, especially the poorest, in the most vulnerable communities. The impacts of climate change are already being experienced in sea level rise, glacial melts, intensified storms, and more frequent droughts. People around the world, especially those who contribute least to global warming, will be worse off because of today’s decision. We must hear the cry of the poor.” Bill O’Keefe, VP, government relations, Catholic Relief Services

**Connecticut -** Connecticut joined the United States Climate Alliance within a couple of days of its formation. “Connecticut has been a national leader in combatting climate change and we have no plans of slowing down our efforts,” Governor Malloy said. “In the absence of leadership from the White House in addressing climate change, it is incumbent upon the states to take action in order to protect their residents.”

Connecticut is in the van of climate laws, climate commissions, and studying the problem. We endorse Connecticut’s forward-looking stance on climate change, including joining with other states and countries to get control of this problem. We want Connecticut to invest appropriately to combat the adverse effects of climate change, to educate citizens accordingly, to continue to encourage and force residents and businesses to implement effective pollution controls.

**Fracking** - We agree with the House approval to legally prohibit fracking and its waste and want the Senate and Governor to approve also. The argument that it does not affect us is blind to the fact that just a few years ago towns were tempted to make money by accepting fracking waste in their landfills, noteworthy in that those towns and their populations were among our most financially strapped subsets - a very concrete example of the poor being the first to experience the effects of environmental degradation.

**SAMPLE LETTER**

*Dear Legislator,*

*I am a constituent deeply concerned about the environmental crisis facing our state and nation and, in fact, our world. Although I am distressed about the US pulling out of the Paris Accords, I am encouraged that Connecticut has joined with other states to further those commitments. I am very happy that CT has adopted a pro-active stance toward protecting our environment and encourage you to maintain that attitude and action-orientation. Please make sure that happens and that necessary funding is provided to do so effectively.*

*Also, please work to complete the fracking and fracking waste ban for the state. There is no need for that destructive process to be tested here, and no need for CT residents to be subject to the poisonous effects of fracking waste from other states.*

*Thank you.*

*Thank you!*