

May 12, 2009



ACTION ALERT

Urge your Representative to ensure that poor people in the most affected developing countries can adapt to the effects of climate change

Take Action Now! Visit the Action Center (<http://actioncenter.crs.org>) to contact [members of the House Energy Commerce Committee](#) and urge them, to dedicate resources in the *American Clean Energy and*

Security Act of 2009, to protect people living in poverty:

- (1) at least 3.5% of the value of carbon credits – approximately \$3.5 billion - in the first year of the international adaptation program to help poor people in the most vulnerable developing countries adapt to climate change, and
- (2) an additional 0.5% annually until a total of 7% - approximately \$7 billion - for international adaptation programs is reached in year eight.

Why is action important now?

Your representative will vote soon on climate change legislation that will help or hurt the poor. Reports are that on Thursday, May 14, members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee are likely to consider *The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009*.

Through your advocacy you can ensure that this legislation that lowers greenhouse gases also protects the poor and vulnerable—both at home and abroad—who contribute least to climate change but are likely to suffer its worst consequences.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) insist:

- that a significant portion of the revenue generated by climate legislation be used to minimize the disproportionate burdens felt by those least able to cope with the impacts of climate change and policies to address it.

While it is urgently and immediately necessary to strengthen the international provisions protecting the most vulnerable in developing countries now, we are equally committed to helping low-income people in the U.S. offset any potential rise in energy prices resulting from climate policies by:

- ensuring that adequate funding is provided to low-income working families and individuals most in need through a comprehensive system including direct consumer rebates.

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 this issue 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 United States Catholic Bishops, [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 experienced the tragic consequences of climate change in the daily lives of people living in poverty. CRS (www.crs.org) 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. USCCB and CRS are also members of the [Catholic Coalition on Climate Change \(CCCC\)](#) that invites Catholics to join the [Catholic Climate Covenant](#) and stand with people living in poverty facing the worst impacts of climate change.

For more information contact:

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