## Dear Member of Congress,

Many Catholics in our nation and world pray, advocate and work for solutions to the climate crisis. We do so because care for creation is an integral aspect of our faith. The health of our planet is necessary to promote the life and dignity of every human being. People across the nation and world are suffering the damaging effects of climate change, environmental degradation, and pollution right now. Without dramatic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, the future impacts of climate change will be even more severe for the generations yet to be born. Therefore, we ask all members of Congress to support legislation that drastically reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

This spring, thousands of Catholics engaged their U.S. Senators through the Encounter for Our Common Home campaign, advocating for climate solutions that include tax incentives for clean energy and innovation, resiliency programs for directly affected communities, and other incentives that both decarbonize and strengthen our economy. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development wrote a letter to Congress outlining the urgent need for the Senate to support these climate measures. The letter stated:

"Climate investments and economic decisions must be guided by the common good, and further investments under consideration must help those on the margins of society, strengthen families, protect religious freedom, promote care for creation, and respect the rights and dignity of every human life."

Today, much of the country is experiencing the hottest temperatures on record. Droughts, water shortages, forest fires, torrential flooding, and other extreme weather events worsened by climate change are harming people, infrastructures, and economies right now. The U.S. Congress can still pivot our nation and world away from this precipice with ambitious climate solutions. If you do not, our shared future will be even more threatened than what we are experiencing now.

We echo Pope Francis' words in *Laudato Si'* when he said, "True statecraft is manifest when, in difficult times, we uphold high principles and think of the long-term common good." We ask you now, as he did, "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to the children who are now growing up?"

We hope and pray you will hear our plea to enact meaningful solutions to the climate crisis, for the good of our common home and common future.