

## WHERE WE'RE AT WITH THE PLANET

\* The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has, for the first time in all its years of reporting, said that humanity and the warming planet are in a **CODE RED CLIMATE EMERGENCY**. With the wildfires, floods, and destruction, we don't need to look far to see that happening around us. Those events may not touch us personally, but they have impacted many communities in the U.S.

\* Pope Francis is *pleading* with the world to act for the sake of humanity and for the world's poor who will be affected most. Other faith leaders, including the Dalai Lama, are doing the same. While at this critical moment, we have a stalemate in our legislative branch.

## WHERE WE'RE AT WITH CONGRESS

\* Senate Republicans have refused to support climate measures that address this crisis, and two Democratic Senators are now holding out as well. Their refusal to act on either the climate or the ecological crisis is a reckless disregard for human and non-human life. We would like to raise a moral voice to appeal to all of these senators.

\* Parts of the "**Build Back Better**" Infrastructure Bill – the so-called social and climate part – are being negotiated away with the intransigence of these senators. Even the **Clean Energy Payment Program**, which could significantly reduce our fossil fuel emissions is in danger of being dropped. Because of pressure to continue funding for highway and transportation projects beyond the extended deadline of Oct. 31, a deal is being brokered to pass the traditional infrastructure bill of \$1.2 trillion to keep those projects going, and have an agreed-upon *framework (instead of passage of a bill)* to deal with the social and climate infrastructure bill, known as the Build Back Better bill of \$3.4 trillion.

\* At this point, it is critical to let our legislators know that we want the climate provisions kept in the final iteration of the Build Back Better bill, including the Clean Energy Payment Program and capping methane. We support paying for it with raising tax rates for the wealthy and corporations which were lowered under the previous Administration, and by ending the subsidies to the fossil fuel companies.

## WHERE THE U.S. STANDS

\* Consider the outcome for our communities and those around the world if the U.S. does nothing to lower its greenhouse gas emissions. Consider the damage to the credibility of the U.S. if the U.S. goes empty-handed to the COP 26 Summit. What message does that give to other countries? Given that the U.S. has historically been the largest polluter of emissions contributing to the climate crisis, we have a major responsibility to lower our emissions as fast as possible to avert climate chaos.

\* Consider also the economics of this infrastructure bill. "Four global warming impacts alone—hurricane damage, real estate losses, increased energy and water costs—will come with a price tag of \$1.9 trillion *annually* by 2100." The climate-related portion of the Build Back Better bill's total of \$3.4 trillion **over 10 years** for solutions to mitigate the worst effects of climate change pales in comparison to the cost of inaction. [<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/cost.pdf>]

## WHERE WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

\* We must act to protect this planet, our common home, and all the living in it by keeping the earth's temperature from rising. We are in a climate emergency, and we need to act like it.

\* Please, look at the possibilities for action, and do what you can **starting today** and continuing this week and as long as it takes for the final bill. Choose an action or several that fit you. Time is of the essence. The world is looking. Our youth are watching...and hoping we will act. Thanking you for all you can do and for sharing this message with friends and colleagues.

