



**The Wisconsin Interfaith
Climate Change Campaign 2001**

For Religious Communities

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Reaction from the Wisconsin Religious Community

**FAITH COALITION OPPOSES BUSH'S CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY,
CALLS HIS ACTIONS "GROSSLY INADEQUATE"**

SUN PRAIRIE WI, June 11, 2001 – In response to President Bush's announcement this morning on global climate change, the Wisconsin Interfaith Climate Change Campaign of Interfaith IMPACT issued a statement opposing his approach, saying that it "may well condemn our grandchildren to suffer the effects of accelerating climate change."

A broad diversity of Wisconsin Christian, Jewish, Unitarian-Universalist, and Quaker leaders representing 14 faith groups have joined the campaign. Religious coalitions in 20 states are mobilizing churches and synagogues to respond to the challenge of climate change.

"President Bush's approach to this urgent and historic challenge is grossly inadequate," said Rev. Dave Steffenson, coordinator of the Wisconsin campaign in a statement issued today. "He suggests a voluntary and therefore risky solution to a serious and challenging problem. The President has not committed the US to the dramatic reductions in domestic emissions that we know are both necessary and possible. Instead, he has proposed an energy plan that would dramatically *increase* US greenhouse gas emissions."

"With less than 5% of the world's population, our nation generates more than 22% of all greenhouse gas emissions. The United States has a unique moral responsibility to lead a transition to a new, sustainable global energy system. Instead of telling the less-developed nations what they must do, our nation must help them skip over the necessity of using green house gas emitting technologies in their development.

“We support a national energy policy that moves our economy away from the fossil fuels which produce global warming and toward clean, safe, sustainable, and renewable energy sources. Specifically, we support a strong international treaty which requires mandatory reduction targets of developed nations’ emissions in the near term and domestic programs and policies to ensure that the US meets its targets.

“We are not scientists, energy experts, or policymakers. But because this challenge raises fundamental moral and religious questions, and our beliefs teach that care for the earth is a primary faith responsibility, we believe the perspectives of faith and values should help shape a national discussion.”

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Wisconsin Faith Groups in the Interfaith Climate Change Campaign:

- **American Baptist Churches**
- **Church of the Brethren**
- **Church of Christ, Scientist**
- **Church Women United**
- **The Episcopal Church**
- **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**
- **The Moravian Church**
- **Roman Catholic Churches & Religious Communities**
- **Presbyterian Church—USA**
- **Society of Friends (Quakers)**
- **Unitarian Universalist Association**
- **United Church of Christ**
- **United Methodist Church**
- **Wisconsin Jewish Conference**