To: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc:  
U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee  
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Date: July 30, 2020

A Moral Call for a National Moratorium on Water, Power and Broadband Shutoffs

Dear Senate Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Chairman Barrasso, and Ranking Member Carper, Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Manchin, Chairman Wicker, and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of our congregants, members and supporters nationwide, we, the undersigned 537 faith leaders and organizations urge Congress to take decisive, moral action and implement a nationwide moratorium on the shut-offs of electricity, water, broadband, and all other essential utility services for all households, places of worship, and other non-profit community centers as part of the next COVID-19 rescue package.

As faith leaders in the Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Baha’i, and other religious traditions, we call on you to come to the aid of struggling families and houses of worship across the country--and ensure that we all have access to water, power, and broadband during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Nearly 80% of the American population self identifies as being grounded in a faith ideology. No matter the religion or denomination, our faiths require us to treat others with care, respect, and dignity. To honor not just our lives, but the lives of others; and to not consider ourselves cared for until our entire community is cared for.

We have united to acknowledge that the COVID-19 emergency is resulting in an economic crisis for millions of families across our country that is unprecedented in modern history—and in particular, is disproportionately harming Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other communities of color, and low-wealth families which comprises 60-85% of America.

Residential homes, places of worship, and other non-profit centers are at the frontlines of community survival. Access to utility services is more crucial than ever. To stop and survive the virus we all need water to drink, wash our clothes, and wash our hands; we need power for our refrigerators, air
conditioners, medical devices, and communications devices running; and we need broadband for updates, information, education, work, and work searches. These needs have doubled down in the onset of what is essentially the season of heat waves and natural disasters that have become stronger and more frequent. With cases once again on the rise, our communities need additional protections. The NEED for action is IMMEDIATE.

In the richest country in the world, the fact that families are being shut off from electricity, water, and broadband is a moral failure and an embarrassment. It indicates a callous heart and a glaring mismanagement of our abundant resources. Although hundreds of communities, and dozens of states pledged to stop utility shut-offs at the beginning of the health crisis, these moratoriums are patchwork, and many have started to expire. The ramifications of this mass debt will be rivaled only by the great depression. To prevent a catastrophe of multi-generational impact is not only a requirement of good governance, it’s a moral imperative. We know that attempts for amelioration have been put in place, such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), but those also come back to Broadband access. Water, power, and broadband are essential components of life. America needs you to act in her best interests NOW.

We must have (1) a moratorium on water, power, and broadband shutoffs nationwide, (2) a reinstatement of disconnected services, (3) a defined extended grace period to pay off any debts, (4) a waiver of late-payment fees, and (5) a forgiveness of all bills for low-wealth households, houses of worship, and other non-profit community centers for the duration of the emergency. Additionally, Congress must address the systemic issues underlying utility shut-offs by investing significant stimulus funds into long-term solutions. This includes resilient distributed clean energy systems, strong water and broadband infrastructure, and halting predatory loan practices that penalize the poor. Americans need you to do this work in your highest conscience.

Sincerely,

National and Global Organizations

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, USA
Faithful America
Franciscan Action Network
Global Alliance Interfaith Networks
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary
Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
National Council of Churches
Creation Justice Ministries
Interfaith Power & Light
Marianist Sisters (US Province)
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Church World Service

Local Organizations and Faith Leaders

Sister Jean Ryan SBS  
AZ
Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz and Uri L'Tzedek, Orthodox Social Justice  
AZ
Deacon Lynn R. Anner-Bolieu  
AZ, NM, UT
Communion of Conciliar Catholic Churches  
CA
Deacon Walter Ramsey  
CA
Pastor John Mabry  
CA
Rabbi Michael Lerner and Beyt Tikkun  
CA
Reverend Abigail Mohaupt  
CA
Reverend Katrina Leathers  
CA
Reverend Lauren Van Ham  
CA
Reverend Pamela Griffith Pond  
CA
Reverend Sue Gimpel  
CA
Right Reverend Janine Stock  
CA
Shelley Tanenbaum  
CA
Sophia Foundation  
CA
The Interfaith Peace Project  
CA
California Interfaith Power & Light  
CA
Reverend Susan Hendershot  
CA
Sister Ellen Jordan  
CA
Sister Jane DeLisle  
CA
Sister Barbara Jean Lee and Sisters of St. Joseph  
CA
Bishop Staccato Powell and Western Episcopal District  
CA
Sister Paulette Deters  
CA
Sister Mary Beth Ingham  
CA
Sister Judith Dugan  
CA
Sister Joyce Anne Thomas  
CA
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
CA
Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, CA
Sister Mary Rogers CSJ, CA
Sister Sue Dunning, CA
Sister Kathleen Maloney, CA
Sister Sue Dunning, CA
Sister Martha Ann Fitzpatrick, CA
Sister Joanna Carroll, CA
Sister Madeleine Meagher, CA
Religious Sisters of Charity, CA
Reverend Andy Schwiebert, CA
Reverend Jennifer Gutierrez, CA
Father Ike Udoh S.J., CA
First Congregational Church of LA, CA
Religious Sister of Charity, CA
Rev. Felicia Helen Parazaider and the Revolution of Love Ministry & Movement, CA
Reverend Jim Conn, CA
The Reverend Dr. Gail Cafferata, CA
Reverend Felicia Parazaider and the Revolution of Love Ministry & Movement, CA
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The Reverend Eric C. Shafer and Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, CA
Reverend Frank Wulf, CA
Brother Henry W. Perez, SJ, CA
The Chaplaincy Institute, CA
Shantha Ready Alonso, CA
LA Voice, CA
Reverend Zach Hoover, CA
Reverend Bob Kelley, CA
Allis Druffel, IHM, CA
Reverend Elizabeth Brick, CA
Reverend Andrea Goodman, CA
Sister Kathleen McCuistion, CA, TX
Boulder Shambhaha Center
David Takahashi and GreenFaith
Eco-Justice Ministries
Lynda C. Freund, Master of Divinity, and the Community United Church of Christ
Marie Venner, Call to Action Colorado and CatholicNetwork.US
Pastor Emeritus Peter A. Terpenning
Rabbi Deborah Ruth Bronstein
Reverend Larry VanSpriell
Reverend Mary Beth Mankin
Senior Minister Peggy Clarke
Monsignor Robert L. Amundsen
Moderator Janet Hoaglund and Community United Church of Christ
Reverend Jackie Hibbard and Dancing Spirit Equine Facilitated Learning
Co-chair Social Action Commission, Laura Terpenning MD, Community UCC
Vice Moderator Beth Cole
First United Methodist Church
Lay Pastoral Leader Betsy A Leonard
Rodfei Tzedek, social justice team of Congregation Rodef Shalom
Rabbi Rachel Kobrin
Rabbi Bernard R Gerson
Jana Everett
Jefferson Unitarian Church Community Action Network
Reverend Rosalee Blake and First United Methodist Church, Boulder
Reverend Heidi Thorsen and Trinity on the Green Episcopal
Reverend Helena L. Martin
Reverend Kent Siladi
Rabbi Hannah Spiro
Rabbi Julie Gordon
Rabbi Ilana Zietman
Rabbi Jacob Singer-Beilin
Rabbi Avis Miller
Reverend Lennox Yearwood Jr. "Rev"
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner</td>
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<td>Reverend Gini Gerbasi</td>
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<td>Interfaith Power &amp; Light (DC.MD.NoVA)</td>
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<td>Dr. Mirele B. Goldsmith and Jewish Climate Action Network DC/MD/VA</td>
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<td>Reverend Terence Dougherty</td>
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<td>Director of Mission Tim Barton</td>
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<td>Youth Director and Missionary Randi Talsma</td>
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<td>Pastor of Youth Ministry Kayln Wiley</td>
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<td>Pastor Andrew Walton and Trinity Clearwater Presbyterian</td>
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<td>Rabbi Joshua Lesser and Congregation Bet Haverim</td>
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<td>Reverend Amber Lowe</td>
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<td>Social Action Coordinator New England Conference United Methodist Women Carol Stidger</td>
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<td>Reverend Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas</td>
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Rabbi Rory Katz MD
School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic Midwest Province MD
Vicar Alyssa Kaplan MD
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Nanci Wilkinson MD
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Detroit Jews for Justice MI
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Reverend Mandy Beal MI
Reverend Colleen Squires and All Souls Community Church of West Michigan Co MI
Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids MI
Birmingham Unitarian Church MI
Reverend Dr. JoAnn Watson and West Side Unity Church MI
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Rabbi Brent Gutmann and Temple Kol Ami  
Reverend Denise Griebler and St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Detroit  
Reverend Cass Charrette  
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The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan  
Reverend Frances Hayes  
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light  
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Director of Leadership Development Jody Thone  
Earthkeeper Carol Mae Donahue  
Earthkeeper Wallace Wadd  
Earthkeeper Gloria Peck  
Christ United Methodist Church  
CUMC Earthkeeper Aileen L Williams  
United Methodist EarthKeeper Jennifer Therkilsen  
Jody Thone  
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Pastor Melissa Woeppel  
Pastor Victoria Jameson and Lot’s Wife Trans and Queer Chaplaincy  
Minister of Word and Sacrament Mark Sandlin and the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant  
Pastor Jennifer Copeland and the North Carolina Council of Churches  
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Deaconess Melba McCallum  
Reverend Jay Leach  
North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light  
Reverend Susannah Tuttle  
Reverend Glencie Rhedrick and the First Baptist Church-West  
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Rabbi Judy Schindler  
Reverend Brian D Crisp  
Reverend Kathy Mudef
Reverend Dr. Rodney Sadler, Jr. and the Center for Social Justice and Reconciliation  
Reverend Andrew Graham Shipley and Missiongathering Christian Church  
Reverend Nina Wynn  
Reverend Michelle Chappell  
Pastor David Roberts and Watershed  
Pastor Rich Vreeland  
Reverend Christy Snow and the Carolina Center for Spiritual Awakening  
Reverend Dr. Valerie Rosenquist and the Charlotte First United Methodist Church  
Reverend Steve Lindsley  
Reverend Bradley Lisk  
Reverend Dr. Jan Edmiston  
Reverend LeDayne McLeese Polaski  
Reverend Eve Stevens  
Reverend Lauren Sims-Salata  
Reverend Bruce P. Baker-Rooks  
Reverend Glencie and the Charlotte Clergy Coalition for Justice  
Reverend Von Clemans  
Reverend Mary Frances Comer  
Pastor Joseph J. Clifford  
Reverend Dr. Von Clemans  
Reverend Megan Argabrite  
Reverend Dr. J. Diane Mowrey  
Reverend Sarah Ellis and First Baptist Church West  
Reverend Ray S. McKinnon  
Reverend Gloria Dorsey and The Genesis Church  
Reverend Janet Garner-Mullins  
Reverend Matt Argonauta  
Reverend Dr. Anthony E. Neal and the First Baptist Church of Badin  
Reverend Amanda Lewis  
Reverend Amelia Stinson-Wesley  
Senior Pastor Cornelius Atkinson  
Reverend Sharon Risher
Dr. Eric Ellis and the New Restoration Outreach Christian Center
Reverend Cedric A. Harmon and Many Voices: A Black Church Movement for Gay & Transgender Justice
Reverend Terrance Grooms
Deaconess Renee Hayes
President John Ederer and MeckMIN
Muslim Community Center of Charlotte
Reverend Jeff McCumber and the UNCA Wesley Foundation
Reverend Grace Lindvall
Reverend Pendleton Peery
Connect, Family, and Outreach Minister Kelly McRell
Reverend Linda McMillan Bowman
Reverend John Magnuson
Associate Pastor of Care & Mission Lynne Keel
Reverend Shavon Starling-Louis
Reverend Larry James and South End Presbyterian Church
Reverend Cassandra Aline Jones, PhD
Reverend Michelle Thomas-Bush
Reverend Ardy Skidmore and the Locust Presbyterian Church
Reverend Sarah Belles and Inclusion Community
Pastor Frank McCullough and New Waves of Joy Baptist Church
Co-Pastor Elizabeth McNair Ayscue
Reverend Veronica Cannon and the First Presbyterian Church Waxhaw
Reverend Sung Moy
Muslim Community Center of Charlotte
Pastor Rick Galloway
Reverend Jeannette Hickman
Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Kayla Bones
Reverend Eric Elnes, Ph.D. and Countryside Community Church
Pastor Mary Beth Tuttle
The Rev. Johanna Young
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Reverend Lori Person-Baynard
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
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Reverend Erica Lea-Simka
Reverend Lawrence G. Bernard, O.F.M.
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Office of Peace, Justice & Creation, Catholic Charities
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David Krantz, Aytzim: Ecological Judaism
Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee and United Methodist Women
Kathleen Deignan, CND, PhD, Founding Director of the Institute for Earth and Spirit at Iona College, and the Congregation of Notre Dame
Mary Smith and Church Women United in New York State
Maryknoll Sisters, Eastern Region, USA
Pastor Jeffrey Courter
Rabbi Jennie Rosenn
Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein
Rabbi Linda Motzkin
Senior Minister Peggy Clarke and the Community Church of New York
Sister Jean Fallon
Sister Teresa Kotturan
Sister Jean Fallon
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Reverend Daniel Cho and Ha:n Ministry UMC
Social Justice Ministry St Charles/Resurrection/All Saints Harlem Co-Chair Minette Duran
Reverend Beth DuBois
Reverend Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson and the Fellowship of Reconciliation NY
Reverend Taryn Mattice NY
Reverend Elizabeth G. Maxwell and the Church of The Ascension NY
Reverend Gary Judson NY
Rabbi Steven M. Graber NY
Rabbi Susan Elkodsi NY
Sister Eileen Gannon and the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill NY
Rabbi Art Vernon NY
Ms. Carol Maltby and Circle Forming NY
Sister Jean Fallon NY
Rabbi David Wise and Hollis Hills Bayside Jewish Center NY
Sister Mary Kay Finneran NY
Reverend Emily McNeill NY
Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS NY
Reverend John Magisano NY
Joseph M. Varon NY
Church Women United in New York State NY
Sisters of Charity of New York NY
Rabbi Daniel Graber NY
Reverend Kathryn Stenta and the New Covenant Presbyterian Church NY
Deacon Kieran W. Andrews NY
Reverend Rebecca Lawson Putman NY
Reverend Richard Rose NY
Sisters of Charity Federation NY
New York Interfaith Power & Light NY
Rabbi Steve Golden NY
Reverend Dr. Lori Knight-Whitehouse NY
Rabbi Irving (Yitz) Greenberg and the J.J. Greenberg Institute for the Advancement of Jewish Life NY
Rabbi Judith NY
Rabbi Dr. Oren Z Steinitz NY
Sister Dorothy Maxwell NY
Reverend David Parsons NY
Reverend Natalie Bowerman and Eastern Parkway UMC
Pastor Lawrence D. Ford, OFM and Holy Name of Jesus Church
Sister Joan Agro, OP and Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt
Reverend Kyle Delhagen
Reverend Loris N Adams
Cantor Abbe Lyons
Pastor Bruce Gilette
Reverend Dawn Swartz
Environmental Justice Ministries of the United Church of Christ, Cleveland
Presiding Elder Dr. Betty Whitted Holley
Reverend Doctor John C. Dorhauer
Sister Sheilamarie Tobbe
Sister Sally Duffy, SC
Reverend Doctor John C. Dorhauer
Reverend Laura Young
Sister Sheilamarie Tobbe
Sister Leanne Jablonski FMI and the Marianist Environmental Education Center
Reverend Dr. Brooks Berndt
Reverend Pamela Buzalka
Reverend Kate Hogue
Rabbi Ruhi Sophia Rubenstein
Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth
Reverend Allison Krizner
Rabbi Jacob Siegel
MDiv. Candidate and Aspirant to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry Alison Duren-Sutherland
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Rabbi Carl Choper
Rabbi Daniel Swartz
Rabbi Micah Weiss
Rabbi Michael Pollack
Reconstructing Judaism
Reverend Cynthia Crowner
Reverend Joan Sabatino 
Reverend Sandra L. Strauss 
Sister Victoria Marie Gribschaw 
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Advocacy Network 
United Methodist Women Climate Justice Advocate Phyllis Terwilliger 
Rabbi Janine Jankovitz 
Pastor Robin Fillmore and Eatonville & Evans Falls UMC 
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light 
Reverend Dr. Darryl W. Stephens 
Sister Colleen Dauerbach SSJ 
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia 
Rabbi Mordechai Liebling 
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia 
Reverend Dr. Brent J. Eelman 
Pastor Marjorie Keiter 
Reverend Dr. Colleen Moliy 
Rabbi Shawn Zevit 
Reverend David A. Heckler 
Rabbi Phyllis Berman 
Reverend Frank Sayford 
Rabbi Nahariyah Mosenkis 
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Concerned Ministers Fellowship 
Pastor Christopher Scott and Flat Rock Baptist Church 
President Dr. U. A. Thompson and the Urban Divinity School 
Reverend Amiri B Hooker 
Reverend Dallas Conyers and Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church 
Reverend Dr. Christopher L. Thompson and Jerimiah United Methodist Church
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Reverend Paul Bush  
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Senior Pastor Dr. Kylon Jerome Middleton and Mount Zion AME Church  
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Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy  
South Carolina Interfaith Power and Light  
The Imani Group  
Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church  
Worship Leader Xavier Boatright  
Reverend Colin Kerr  
Reverend Daniel Hazard  
Reverend Zachary Brewster and the Change Church  
Pastor Pattie Gordon and The Johns Island Parish  
The Reverend Doctor Susan Prinzg  
The Reverend Deacon Caitlyn Darnell  
Reverend Jason W. Myers  
Pastor Thomas Dixon  
Reverend Charles Rhodes  
Reverend Dr. Joanne Sizoo  
Reverend Michele Fischer  
Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church  
Rick Joye  
Father Cody Maynus  
Pastor for Creation Care & Environmental Justice Paul Slentz  
Reverend Regina Clarke  
The Reverend Kira Austin-Young and the St. Ann’s Episcopal Church, Nashville  
Reverend Dr. Robyn Henderson-Espinoza and the Activist Theology Project  
Pastor Brian Wyatt and the First Presbyterian Church, Elizabethton  
Reverend Holly G. Bandel  
Reverend Doctor Fredricc Gerard Brock  
The Reverend Janet Maykus
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Reverend Kathleen Kendall Davies and A Community of the</td>
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<td>Special Advisor on Climate Justice to UCC General Minister</td>
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<td>Sister Ruth Battaglia CSA and the Congregation of Sisters</td>
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EarthKeeper Krista Spieler  WI
Reverend Dr. Melvin Hoover and Melrose Ministries  WV