



## **Tell Iowa's Senators: Protect the Poor in Climate Legislation**

**Take Action Now!** Contact Senators Harkin and Grassley now (<http://actioncenter.crs.org>) and urge that the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act (S. 1733, the climate change bill) now being considered

- Fully protects low-income individuals and families in the U.S. from any potential rise in the price of energy and other consumer goods resulting from the legislation by providing the same level of funding for low-income assistance as in the House bill.
- Significantly increases the funding for international adaptation programs. At a minimum allocate \$3.5 billion of funding generated by the bill to international adaptation programs starting in 2012 and increase rapidly to \$7 billion annually by 2020 so that people living in poverty around the world can be protected from the effects of climate change.

**Why is action important now?** Senate Committees upon which Senators Harkin and Grassley serve will likely vote on this climate change legislation in the next week or so.

**What is the Church's position?** CRS, CCUSA and USCCB seek climate legislation that achieves two fundamental goals: care for creation and protecting the poor and vulnerable, both at home and abroad, who contribute least to climate change, but suffer its worst consequences. While we are encouraged by language in S. 1733 acknowledging the need to protect poor people worldwide, we are deeply concerned that the level of funding for these provisions is well below what is needed.

**What does climate change have to do with my Catholic faith?** The Catholic Church brings a unique voice to the climate change debate by lifting up both the moral dimensions of caring for God's creation and the needs of the most vulnerable among us. The Catholic bishops' primary concern is to place the life, dignity and 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. Find out more about Catholic teaching on climate change, read the climate change statement by the U.S. Catholic Bishops at <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/globalclimate.shtml>.

**How is the Catholic Church addressing the effects of climate change?** The Church promotes prudent action in the face of the growing impacts of global climate change and is seeking common ground for the common good in a very polarized debate. CRS has already witnessed the tragic consequences of climate change in the daily lives of people living in poverty and is working diligently to help affected communities through health, agriculture, water, and emergency preparedness programs in 100 countries. The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change is educating Catholics about the impacts of climate change and what can be done about it. And, USCCB and CRS are mobilizing one million Catholics to learn, pray and act in support of policies that will help poor people worldwide adapt to climate change.

**TAKE ACTION NOW:** Contact Senators Harkin and Grassley (<http://actioncenter.crs.org>) who will soon consider this important legislation. Senator Harkin: 202-224-3254 (VOICE); 202-224-9369 (FAX), <http://harkin.senate.gov/c/>. Senator Grassley: <http://grassley.senate.gov/contact.cfm>.

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