



September 16, 2015

Dear Member of Congress,

As you know, Pope Francis is coming to the United States next week, speaking before Congress the morning of September 24<sup>th</sup>. One of the main issues he will be speaking about is the urgent problem of climate change. Indeed, Pope Francis has detailed his thoughts about this crisis in his recently released papal encyclical called *Laudato Si'*. It is our honor to provide you with a complimentary copy of this profound document.

In his encyclical, released in June, the Pope writes: "A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming, or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it."

We believe *Laudato Si'* is a book that people from all walks of life should take time to study. Of course, this especially includes Catholic legislators such as yourself. Pope Francis calls on all people to take action to combat the injustice of climate change. As a legislator, you have a particularly great opportunity to address this issue by advancing fair and effective legislation in Congress to begin de-carbonizing our national economy.

This is why we want to bring a particular piece of legislation to your attention. The Franciscan Action Network and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network – as well as scores of other regional and national organizations – are supporting HR 1027, "The Healthy Climate and Family Security Act." It was introduced earlier this year by Congressman Chris Van Hollen of Maryland and is now co-sponsored by 27 other House members. The bill would create an easy-to-enforce "upstream" cap on carbon fuels in the U.S. economy. It would also rebate 100% of the collected auction revenues back to all American citizens in the form of an equal-sized, quarterly "dividend" check. Under this bill, virtually all Americans – including poor and middle-class Americans – are protected financially during the transition toward cleaner energy.

We urge you to join in co-sponsoring this bill or, in the Senate, in supporting the upcoming introduction of a companion bill. You can read the House bill's text and find out more about it at [climateandprosperity.org](http://climateandprosperity.org). Meanwhile, we hope you will find *Laudato Si'* as moving and impactful as we did.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick J. Carolan".

Patrick Carolan

Director, Franciscan Action Network

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Tidwell".

Mike Tidwell

Director, Chesapeake Climate Action Network