



Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

UU advocacy in the nation's capital



Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

Respect Life. Restore Earth. Renew Spirit.

April 1, 2019

Dear Climate Justice Activist:

Thank you for your interest in joining UUs across the country in making our UU voices heard on Capitol Hill. UUs for Social Justice (UUSJ) is partnering with UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) for a nationwide ***"Write Here! Write Now!"*** (WHWN) letter-writing advocacy campaign during the UUMFE ***Spring For Change: Season of Sacred Activism*** (3/22-5/22) to tell our U.S. Senators to take urgent action to address the climate crisis.

Especially during this season, we need to seize the opportunity that has been generated by youth and the introduction of "audacious" solutions like those called for in the Green New Deal, and tell our elected officials to pass legislation that addresses pressing climate change issues and that will create a more just and livable world for our communities, our planet and all creation.

Mobilize your congregation's members - including children, youth and families - to write their Senators with their concerns, hopes, personal experiences, and stories and urge them to take action to address the climate crisis.

On Tuesday May 14, our UUSJ Capitol Hill Advocacy Corps, a group of volunteers from the national capital region who go to the Hill monthly, will personally deliver your letters and meet with Senate staff to discuss our UU values and the need for immediate, just climate action. To learn more about the Advocacy Corps, our recent action issues and advocacy resources, visit the UUSJ website www.uusj.org and click on Advocacy. Consider becoming a partner with UUSJ and offer a monthly letter-writing event at your congregation. Contact advocacy@uusj.org.

What can you do?

You can organize a writing event to make it easy for members of your congregation to write letters to their Senators! **To get started, download the UUSJ's ["WHWN Toolkit for Letter-Writing Campaigns"](#) with tips to help you organize your letter-writing campaign.** Then:

- 1. Form a team** to help plan your letter-writing event. Ask your RE leaders for support with involving the children, youth and families.
- 2. Decide on a date** or two (on Sunday April 7, 14, 21, 28 and/or May 5) and then promote your event early, widely and often.
- 3. Set up a letter-writing table** after services with pens and paper, and the UUSJ's one-page handout with topic information and a sample message.
- 4. Provide clear LARGE signage** on the day of the event. Include a catchy title or image.
- 5. Take pictures** for your newsletters and email pictures to advocacy@uusj.org.
- 6. Mail letters** to arrive on or before May 9th. See mailing and delivery instructions below.

Support Materials: You can find documents and other issue fact sheets and resources link [here on the UUSJ WHWN 2019 Letter-Writing Information page](#) (updated ongoing through April 14) including: **1.** A PDF version of this “Letter and Instructions” that you are reading now. **2.** the UUSJ “Write Here! Write Now!” Letter-Writing Toolkit for tips on organizing a WHWN letter-writing event; **3.** the one-page WHWN handout to put on your writing table, titled “Tell Our Senators to Take Urgent Action on the Climate Crisis”; it includes: Grounding in our Faith, Issue Background, Talking Points, Suggested Questions to Ask, and a Sample Letter. **4.** Issue resources will be added ongoing. **5.** Sign up [here](#) for periodic updates.

Below is a sample announcement for you to adapt for your congregation’s weekly newsletter and/or Sunday worship bulletin. It can also be adapted for an email or social media posting.

Tell Your US Senators to Take Urgent Action to Address the Climate Crisis

Averting the climate crisis is critical to the vision and lived expression of Unitarian Universalism. From April 7 - May 5th, UUs across the country are writing letters to their U.S. Senators to urge action to address the climate crisis. Letters will be personally delivered to Capitol Hill offices on May 14 by the UUs for Social Justice Capitol Hill Advocacy Corps, in Washington, D.C.

Join us and write a message to your Senators. Stop by the letter-writing table in [location] on Sunday, [April 7, 14, 21, 28 and/or May 5]. Questions? Contact [contact in your congregation] at [contact’s email and/or phone number].

When and how should the letters be mailed?

Delivery date to UUSJ: arrival required on or before **Thursday, May 9**. If you can’t meet that deadline, contact us at advocacy@uusj.org or call 703-786-5206.

In the packet to be mailed:

- put letters, opened and flat, separated by each Senator, in one envelope.
- Include only letters with the writer’s full address. Check the letters (at the writing table and before you mail them). Without addresses the Senator’s staff won’t know if the writer is a constituent and will disregard the letter.

Include in your packet the following information either on the “Letter-Writing Log Form” provided on the “Letter-Writing Information Page” or a sheet of paper:

- the congregation’s name and full mailing address.
- your name, phone number, email address.
- the number of letters to each Senator.

Mail to:

UUSJ c/o Lavona Grow
2308 N. Buchanan St.
Arlington, VA 22207
703-786-5206

Questions? Contact advocacy@uusj.org or call Lavona Grow at 703-786-5206.