



April 1, 2018

Dear Climate Justice Activist:

Thank you for your interest in joining UUs across the country in making our UU voices heard on Capitol Hill. During the 2018 Climate Justice Month, UUs are especially called to bring the interconnected web of life back into balance.

Join UUs across the country in writing their US Senators during Climate Justice Month. Mobilize your congregation members to write their Senators with their personal experiences, stories, and concerns and urge them to vote for the RECLAIM Act 2017 to release funds to engage coalfield states and Indian tribes in moving towards a “Just Transition” from a coal-dependent economy to one that puts people back to work leading to a more sustainable economy and a brighter future.

On Tuesday May 8, our UUSJ Capitol Hill Advocacy Corps, a group of volunteers from the national capital region, will deliver your letters and meet with Senate staff to discuss our UU values on climate justice. To learn more about the Advocacy Corps, our recent action issues and advocacy resources, visit the [UUSJ website](#) and click on Advocacy. And consider offering a monthly letter-writing event at your congregation. Contact advocacy@uusj.org to establish a pilot program at your congregation.

What can you do?

You can organize opportunities to make it easy for members of your congregation to write letters to their Senators! Set up a letter-writing table after services on Sunday April 8, 15, 22, and/or 29. Promote your event widely. Provide clear signs on the day of the event and provide UUSJ’s background material including the RECLAIM Act Handout with information that includes a sample message, pens and paper. Send letters to arrive on or before May 4. See mailing and deliver instructions below.

You can find PDF documents of support materials and updates all on [one page here](#) including:

1. this [“Letter and Instructions;”](#)
2. the [UUSJ Write Here! Write Now! Letter-Writing Toolkit](#) for tips on organizing a WHWN letter-writing event;
3. on the same page as the Toolkit - WHWN Bookmark (with event organizing and writing tips that you can copy and put on tables); and
4. [RECLAIM Act Issue Handout](#) a one-page, two-sided (put out on your writing table. Includes: Background & Talking Points, Instructions for Preparing Your Letter and a Sample Letter).
- Also 5. the UUSJ [Issue Information Page on the “RECLAIM Act Help Release \\$1B to Help Coalfield Communities”](#) for more issue updates, background, resources, and action steps.

Below is a sample announcement for your congregation's weekly newsletter and/or Sunday worship bulletin (which can also be adapted for an email or social media posting):

Climate Justice Month: Join us in writing our US Senators the RECLAIM Act for a just transition for coalfield country communities

During Climate Justice Month, UUs across the country are hand-writing letters to their US Senators to be personally delivered to Capitol Hill offices on May 8 by the UUs for Social Justice Capitol Hill Advocacy Corps. Join us and write a message to support the RECLAIM Act to release \$1B funds to coal country communities. Stop by the letter-writing table in [location] on Sunday, [April 8, 15, 22, or 29]. Questions? Contact [contact in your congregation] at [contact's email and/or phone number].

Take pictures: Take action shots of people writing letters. Share with your congregation and UUSJ. Send them to advocacy@uusj.org and put "WHWN pictures - congregation name, state" in the subject line.

When and how should the letters be mailed?

Delivery date to UUSJ: arrival on or before Friday, May 4. If you can't meet that deadline, or if you must scan/PDF and email letters to us, contact us first at advocacy@uusj.org. Put WHWN and your congregational name in the subject line.

In the packet to be mailed:

- put letters, opened and flat, in one envelope - do not put individual letters in envelopes.
- Include only letters with complete addresses. Check for full addresses on 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 envelope on a sheet of paper:

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

Send via 2-day service, such as USPS and FedEx 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 703-524-4860 (home) or 703-786-5206 (cell).