

## **Green Notes: Weekly tips for reducing your carbon footprint from First United Methodist's Green Team:**

### **Support the climate patriots in Congress!**

This week, Congress took the first step toward preparing U.S. cities for the disasters caused by global warming: floods, hurricanes, extreme wildfires, decades-long droughts. Approved on a bipartisan vote, the Biden administration's infrastructure bill includes \$47 billion to help communities prepare for the worst of climate change's havoc.

Here's the problem: The 13 members of the opposition who voted "yes" were immediately assailed by their party's leaders, many of whom have spent years blocking any meaningful U.S. response to climate change – denying, and attempting to defy, science by politicizing it.

And here's why that is a problem: The infrastructure bill was just a start. Even more critical is the \$555 billion in climate-action money included in the yet-to-be-approved federal spending bill. Those programs would reduce the carbon dioxide emissions that are trapping heat in the atmosphere and pushing global temperatures past every threshold.

We need the bipartisan group of Congress women and men to vote "yes" on the spending bill. We know they understand the scientific evidence and the urgency for action. But they're under siege for voting "yes" on the infrastructure bill. According to the New York Times, one caller told Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Illinois to slit his wrists. Another suggested that Rep. Don Bacon of Nebraska slip and fall down a staircase. The office of Rep. Nicole Malliotakis of New York was inundated with messages labeling her a "traitor."

And remember: The threats came because these U.S. leaders voted for an infrastructure bill that primarily provides roads, bridges, water and sewer treatment plants, transportation networks – and projects that strengthen our communities' ability to withstand the extreme weather events caused by climate change.

These climate patriots need our thanks and support: Rep. Don Bacon of Nebraska, Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania, Rep. Andrew Garbarino of New York, Rep. Anthony Gonzalez of Ohio, Rep. John Katko of New York, Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Illinois, Rep. Nicole Malliotakis of New York, Rep. David McKinley of West Virginia, Rep. Tom Reed of New York, Rep. Chris Smith of New Jersey, Rep. Fred Upton of Michigan, Rep. Jeff Van Drew of New Jersey, Rep. Don Young of Alaska.

They need to hear from us – and so do their detractors.

“There’s a lot of good stuff in the infrastructure bill to help us prepare for climate upheaval, but that package does very little to affect emissions, and therefore won’t prevent climate upheaval,” said Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Democrat of Rhode Island and one of the most prominent champions of climate action in Congress. “It’s not enough to just do repair work. We need to prevent the worse scenarios.”

What can you do? Call or email every member of Congress who crossed party lines to vote for the infrastructure bill. Thank them for voting to protect our communities and environment. Urge them to do the same on the spending bill. Then call their detractors. And our Montana senators and representative. Tell them that you want strong and immediate governmental action on climate change. Demand an end to the politicization of climate science and climate action. Our lives, and most importantly our children’s and grandchildren’s lives, depend on it.