

Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22, 2020

Dear members of Congress,

We, as representatives of America's faith-based communities, advocate for the following values to be considered as you sort out the numerous options before you that will make up the fourth economic stimulus plan to lessen the effects of COVID-19 on our nation. Together we represent 200,000+ people of faith, a diverse cross section of Americans affiliated with advocacy, denominational and educational organizations, coming together to urge you, our representatives, to take action that builds resilience, health, and sustainability.

Today, on this 50th Earth Day, thousands around the world are coming together as part of a campaign to "sound the call"--to blow shofars, ring church bells, bang drums, blow trumpets, and honk horns--all to say: We are redoubling our commitment to a healthier and more sustainable world for all!

In the Bible, a shofar, or ram's horn was blown because:

- It is a reminder that everything we have comes from the natural world that sustains us.
- We blow at times of celebration and Earth Day is a celebration of planet earth!
- The shofar is a cry of pain; we blow it now for those who are sick and for the ways we are harming this planet.
- It is also a call to repentance--to changing our ways going forwards.

We sound the call for a greater global commitment to public health and for governmental actions to enable everyone to live more sustainably and equitably.

**We call on Congress to:**

- 1. Invest immediately in:**
  - a. expanded access to healthcare for rural and underserved populations;**
  - b. additional funding for hospitals and medical providers;**
  - c. ensuring a sufficient supply of durable-medical and protective equipment during this time of crisis;**
- 2. Invest for the long-term in better public health systems and facilities**
  - a. Including the reassessment of worker protections in times of pandemic;**
  - b. The clarification and reassessment of Expanded Family Medical Leave policies;**
  - c. Policies that ensure all have access to adequate healthcare**
  - d. The ongoing and expanded support of SNAP and school lunch programs.**
- 3. Invest now and in the future for green legislation:**
  - a. Including support for our farmers and food supply workers - particularly small and mid-size operations;**

- b. Support for green energy corporations who provide not only well-paid, reliable jobs, but will also see our Nation into the future as we pursue a more sustainable world for all.**

These are unprecedented times calling for unprecedented leadership, unprecedented challenges calling for unprecedented solutions. We have an opportunity to make the silver lining larger than the cloud and we call on you to make it so.

Sincerely,  
LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS