

NETWORK

Protecting Creation: Federal Rollbacks, Legislative Action, and Faith in Climate Justice

Welcome!





AGENDA



- **Welcome!**
- **Introduction by Laurie Carafone**
- **Opening prayer by Coston Fellow Mia Isabel Lazo**
- **Administration updates at DOE, DOI, EPA**
- **Lived experience from Shamyra Lavigne-Davey**
- **Legislation in Congress**
 - **PERMIT Act**
 - **Fix Our Forests Act**
- **Lived experience from Ben Chu**
- **Call to action**
- **Support our work!**
- **Q&A**

Setting the Moral Frame

- Our call to protect creation is rooted in the **Catholic Social Justice tradition**:
 - *Care for Creation* – safeguarding God’s gift for all people; living in right relationship
 - *Solidarity* – coming together, especially with frontline and Indigenous communities, to act
 - *Option for the Poor* – protecting those most affected by climate injustice and looking to them for solutions

“Unless citizens control political power — national, regional, and municipal — it will not be possible to control damage to the environment.” -*Laudate Deum*

Big Picture

- Whether we live in the city, the suburbs, or a rural area, **we all deserve safe water, breathable air, and affordable clean energy.**
- Yet, some in Congress and the Administration continue to roll back our protections and **give polluters a free pass**—inflating their profits at our expense.
- **People of faith continue to come together** to protect our neighborhoods, our lands, and our futures!

An Economy for All is a clean energy economy.

Department of Energy Rollbacks

- **Recent actions:**
 - Canceled \$13B in renewable energy project funding
 - Ended incentives for wind and solar development
 - Promoted fossil fuel expansion under the guise of “energy independence”
- **Impacts:**
 - Threatens clean energy job growth
 - Slows U.S. transition to a renewable future
 - Increases carbon emissions and pollution

Department of the Interior (DOI) Rollbacks

- **Recent actions:**

- Opened millions of acres of public lands for oil and gas leasing
- Reduced environmental review requirements under NEPA
- Weakened tribal consultation standards

- **Impacts:**

- Threatens sacred lands and cultural heritage
- Undermines community voices in decision-making
- Exacerbates climate and biodiversity crises

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Rollbacks

- **Recent actions:**

- Rolled back PFAS and petrochemical regulations
- Delayed enforcement on corporate polluters
- Weakened Clean Water Act protections

- **Impacts:**

- Increased toxic exposure, especially in frontline areas like *Cancer Alley*
- **Shamyra Lavigne-Davey:** Faith-led resistance and the power of local action
- “Our water is sacred. Protecting it is both a moral and spiritual duty.”

Legislative Overview

- **Congress faces two choices:**
 - **PERMIT Act (H.R. 3898)** – *Weakens environmental review and silences communities*
 - **Fix Our Forests Act (S.1462)** – *Protects forests, supports wildfire recovery, and invests in resilience*
- **NETWORK's position:**
 - PERMIT Act: **OPPOSE** 👎
 - Fix Our Forests Act: **SUPPORT** 👍

The PERMIT Act (Oppose)

- **What it does:**

- Limits public comment under NEPA
- Fast-tracks fossil fuel projects
- Weakens environmental justice safeguards

- **Why we oppose it:**

- Silences communities most affected by pollution
- Prioritizes corporate interests over public health
- Undermines decades of environmental law

The Fix Our Forests Act (Support)

- **What it does:**
 - Strengthens wildfire resilience and restoration
 - Provides funding for reforestation and prescribed burns
 - Allows for speeding up of essential forest restoration projects
 - Creates a nationwide system to designate the top 20% of wildfire-exposed landscapes for treatment
 - Creates a wildfire intelligence center for wildfire data, modeling, smoke forecasting, and decision support
 - Increases capacity for growing and planting trees to restore burned or degraded lands
- **Bipartisan support:** Passed the House with support from both parties (279-141) with 64 Democrats voting in favor



Take Action with NETWORK!

- **Use NETWORK's action alerts** to tell your Members of Congress:
 - Vote **NO** on **The PERMIT Act**:
<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/permit-act->
 - Vote **YES** on **The Fix Our Forests Act**:
<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/fix-our-forests>



Support Our Work!

Your support is critical—now more than ever! The work you heard about tonight is only possible because of people like you, who are part of a network of over **94,000 supporters**.

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