

“For Such a Time as This” Pray. Fast. Act.

U.S. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY BUDGETS

Scripture teaches that humanity has a special role in relationship to the rest of creation. While we, like other creatures, are formed from the earth, humans are charged with being God’s stewards of all of creation. Our elected officials in Congress help support the stewardship of God’s creation by appropriating funding for programs that protect human health and the environment. These programs include promoting clean air and water, productive land, preventing harm to plants and animals, and supporting biological diversity and healthy communities. Congress also funds major international development efforts to mitigate the impact of greenhouse-gas emissions. These environmental programs are essential to global food and national security, welfare, and economic productivity.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) recognizes that failure to protect God’s creation leads to problems that intensify social injustices, resulting in situations where the marginalized and vulnerable are most affected by the ill effects of environmental degradation. Without appropriate environmental care, economic growth cannot be sustained. Caring for creation means that economic processes should respect environmental limits.

We support sustained government efforts to address the needs of all but especially the vulnerable and marginalized populations around the world. We encourage all Lutherans to advocate for robust funding for programs that provide for the care of all creation.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

The EPA protects human health and the environment. It rigorously develops, implements and enforces standards that keep pollution out of the air and the water; keep harmful chemicals out the food we eat; protect the lands where we live, work, and play; and safeguard animal and plant life.

For fiscal year 2018, we urge Congress to provide \$8.27 billion to fund the EPA and its programs that protect air quality, reduce climate change, protect our waters, clean up communities, advance sustainable development, ensure the safety of chemicals, and utilize the latest scientific information.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR (DOI)

The DOI protects and manages the United States’ natural resources including public lands and waterways, furthers the protection of endangered species, and honors the nation’s trust responsibilities and special commitments to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

For fiscal year 2018, we urge Congress to provide \$13.4 billion to fund the DOI and its programs.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE)

The DOE oversees research and development initiatives and implementation of critical programs that involve clean energy and energy efficiency that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For fiscal year 2018, we urge Congress to provide \$32.5 billion to fund the DOE and its programs.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

The USDA provides support for programs that include investing in rural communities and beginning farmers and ranchers, nutrition assistance for vulnerable populations, agricultural research, food safety, and increasing the resilience of natural resources.

For fiscal year 2018, we urge Congress to provide \$25 billion to fund the USDA and its programs.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Department of State funds programs that mitigate the harmful consequences of climate change and promote human rights. Worldwide, it furnishes life-saving humanitarian aid that fosters growth, reduces poverty and combats disease.

For fiscal year 2018, we urge Congress to provide \$50.1 billion to fund the Department of State and its programs, including \$750 million for the Green Climate Fund, which promotes climate change mitigation and adaptation in developing countries.

ELCA [*“Social Statement on: Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice”*](#)

ELCA [*“Social Statement on: Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All”*](#)

#ForSuchATime #PrayFastAct ELCA.org/PrayFastAct



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.