

ICCT Policy Position on National Infrastructure Plans

Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle is a network of people from 65 faith communities dedicated to Creation stewardship, as a matter of faith and morality. “We are guided by faith, informed by science, and focused on environmental justice”. Given humanity’s record of Creation neglect and exploitation, our collective faith response to the growing environmental and climate crisis must include advocacy for policy and legislation to reshape our economy, so that emissions of the greenhouse gases that are the root cause of climate change are brought to net zero by the middle of this century¹.

We stand at the precipice of climate catastrophe with only a few years left to make the changes necessary to preserve the planet. The climate crisis disproportionately affects black and indigenous populations, as well as other people of color. These threats are inherently social justice issues and people of faith and conscience must respond.

The infrastructure plans currently being debated in Washington provide an opportunity to forcefully address these challenges. We encourage our legislators to not only renew our traditional infrastructure such as roads and bridges but reimagine our economy by moving away from fossil fuels for transportation and power generation, modernizing our electricity grid, making our homes, hospitals, and schools more energy efficient. These changes are critical to lessening the disastrous effects of climate change which are already impacting populations and economies across the globe. Investments in our human infrastructure through education, training and support for the care sector are also an integral element. If enacted, the acts envisioned will create many good jobs in new industries that will give our citizens a good quality of life well into the future.

ICCT urges our elected representatives to work together on infrastructure plans that will save our environment, produce good jobs at good wages and address historical racial and environmental injustice.

¹ “Only 11 Years Left to Prevent Irreversible Damage from Climate Change, Speakers Warn during General Assembly High-Level Meeting”, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ga12131.doc.htm>