

# Congress and climate

Thank you for “A moral obligation to protect our Earth” (Monitor Forum, June 18).

I raise one objection: The writers advocate “supporting public policies that will lead us to a more sustainable energy future that reduces carbon pollution and the effects of climate change,” supporting EPA power plant regulations and “support and prayers for mutual respect and understanding to ensure truly significant progress” during U.N. talks in Paris, but nowhere do they mention the U.S. Congress.

Obviously, it should be easier for the Congress of the country with the world’s biggest economy to negotiate its own climate change legislative policy than for 190-plus nations to agree. Once the country with the greatest international purchasing power and largest trade deficit sets its emissions policy (applying its policy to imported products), all nations wanting to trade with us will follow suit. Ignoring Congress is an expression of disrespect. Perhaps our Congress deserves contempt for their climate inaction, but congressional inaction reflects the public’s apathy and confusion.

Faith leaders ought to forgive Congress their inaction. Please contact Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Kelly Ayotte with gratitude for climate advocacy positions they have voiced, and respectfully ask them to endorse papal calls for climate action, urge them to co-sponsor bipartisan carbon pricing legislation and press them to silence everyone in their respective parties who still repeat manufactured climate change denial lies.

With your respectful support, they’ll take off their gloves and get this job done.

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