

Our readers write

Act on warming

As a mother, a minister, and a resident of this beautiful piece of the planet, I am deeply concerned about the toll that climate change is taking, and will continue to take, on our communities.

In coming years, we can expect to see decreased agricultural productivity, a decline in the health of our forests and further shrinking of glaciers. (Six of Mount Hood's 11 glaciers feed into the five irrigation districts in our valley. In the past century, these glaciers have receded up to 61 percent and are projected to continue shrinking as the climate warms.)

NOW is the time for each one of us to do our part in reducing the primary cause of climate warming — the high volume of excess carbon dioxide we pump into the atmosphere — a volume that greatly exceeds the absorption capacity of our forests and oceans. Our actions are harming our own children and, even more immediately, the children of the world's most vulnerable communities.

Drought, famine and rising sea levels threaten populations of poor nations that lack resources to mitigate these consequences. Sadly, it is those who have contributed the least to the problem of climate change that bear the brunt of its consequences.

What can we do? Our U.S. Senate has the opportunity this fall to create a win for our economy, God's creation and impoverished communities. The American Clean Energy and Security Act will set emissions targets, invest in job-creating renewable energy and create programs to help the world's developing nations adapt to climate change.

I encourage people of faith and all concerned about the well-being of

our communities to contact Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley to urge them to support the strongest possible version of the Energy Act. The lives and livelihoods of millions depend on it.

Let us hold our heads high in the presence of our children and grandchildren and act NOW!

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