



IOWA INTERFAITH **POWER & LIGHT**

Letters to the editor are read by the general public as well as by elected officials, candidates for office, and their staff members. They are an effective way of moving public opinion on a subject.

During October, we're asking Iowans of faith to write letters to the editor to focus on the themes in our Religious Leaders Statement on Climate Change.

When constructing your letter, keep these tips in mind:

- Make sure you know the guidelines for the news outlet where you are submitting your letter. Your newspaper may have an email address or an online form to use. Some papers still take hard copies by mail. Or if it's a smaller rural paper, you may be able to stop by the newspaper office to hand deliver it.
- Be concise. Write a short, pointed letter. Limit the letter to about 250 words to increase the likelihood it will be printed.
- Be clear about the point you want to make.
- Share your expertise. In this case you are a person of faith as well as whatever else you want to share—business owner, farmer, grandparent, teacher, volunteer, etc.
- Include your name, address, and contact information. Many papers will want to contact you before they print your letter.

Choose one of the bullet points from the bulletin insert and offer your opinion about why as a person of faith this is important to you. Here are two generic examples. In your letter, include your own experiences, expertise, local context, and reaction to recent news to make a more powerful letter.

“As a Christian, I know we can no longer wait. Climate change is one of the most important moral challenges facing the world. My faith tells me **we must work with nature to solve climate change**. We have used too many fossil fuels. With rising sea levels, increasing weather extremes, and more devastating storms, clearly nature is telling us we have to find another way to provide our energy. Fortunately, our creator has provided the tools within nature itself. The sun, the wind, the tides, biomass, and geothermal provide enough power to fuel all of our energy needs. The biggest challenges to a clean energy future are not technological, they are moral. Nature is not to be tamed. It is a gift from our creator. I am committed to finding faith-based solutions to climate change. We can do that by working with nature instead of against it as we replace fossil fuels with clean energy.”

“We can no longer wait. My Jewish faith calls me to find just solutions to climate change. **Climate justice requires we bear each other's burdens equitably**. Climate change is magnifying inequality in our communities, across our state, throughout our country, and around the world. Every day we wait to implement faith-based solutions to climate change is a day when the hungry become hungrier, refugees increase in number, and conflicts and war zones multiply. I am committed to finding faith-based solutions to climate change where the costs and benefits are shared equitably by all.”

When you've submitted your letter, send us a copy. And if it's printed, let us know. If we are able, we will share it on our Facebook page.