

His Holiness, Pope Francis
Apostolic Palace
00120 Vatican City

April 5, 2015

You chose the namesake of St. Francis of Assisi which exemplifies your unwavering commitment and genuine concern regarding the importance of protecting our environment. We agree with your position that climate change is mostly the fault of human beings and we are grateful for your endeavors to engage the international community on issues of climate change. This gives us hope for a global effort to protect the Earth, not only from carbon emissions and use of fossil fuels, but also from the unmanageable risks of nuclear energy, as revealed most recently by the devastating global disaster at Fukushima Dai'ichi in 2011.

Our organization, Fukushima Response, was formed four years ago as a response to this nuclear disaster at Fukushima. We have generated public awareness through film screenings, seminars, social media, citizen sea water monitoring and civic actions such as human beach murals across the globe on Oct. 19, 2013. Fukushima Response joined the international climate protest on September 19, 2014, in both New York and on the West coast. This year on March 16th, members of our organization joined Catholics and people of all creeds and nationalities in 45 countries across the globe by participating in the Lenten fast for action on climate change. Our organization is aware of your upcoming Encyclical on Ecology and your plan to attend the September 24th Joint Session of the US Congress, and we urge you to ask the US Congress and the world to stop the development and use of nuclear energy.

The repercussions of the catastrophe at Fukushima on March 11, 2011 are immense and have had profound effects on all forms of life in our world. We wholeheartedly support the Japanese bishops in their warning against the use of nuclear power. Nuclear proliferation, alongside the human misuse of fossil fuels, has the potential to destroy all life. This crisis has convinced Chancellor Angela Merkel to commit to phasing out atomic energy in Germany by the year 2022.

We ask for your support in publicly acknowledging that nuclear energy is not a solution regarding the issues of climate change. The Fukushima disaster as well as other destructive misuses of nuclear power have affected the entire globe and will continue to do so. Development of nuclear energy with its massive destructive risks is the ultimate human rejection of the gift of life we have been given by the Creator.

We humbly trust you will include this imperative message of protecting and honoring the Earth in your upcoming missives, speeches and prayers.

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Enclosures