



Hospital Sisters of St. Francis

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Statement of Support

The Leadership Team of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis stands in solidarity with opposition by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious to the proposed Affordable Clean Energy Rule. We have committed ourselves to a life of meeting the needs of the poor, ill, marginalized and vulnerable. The proposed Rule would significantly weaken the progress made to protect the population of the world from increasing carbon pollution, rapid climate change and the health of all people, especially the most vulnerable.

The proposed Rule allows each state to decide if and how they would reduce their greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuel, placing the health of all people at significantly greater risk. The United States has historically been the world's largest carbon polluter. There is ample evidence readily available to show that the pollution we have already produced is a danger to all people. Further weakening of our laws for control of pollution will only exacerbate the problem.

The climate is a common good given to all and we are all responsible to care for it. Each of us are called by God to protect this common home by caring for all of Creation. Blessed Pope Paul VI pointed out in his address to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "the most extraordinary scientific advances, the most amazing technical abilities, the most astonishing economic growth, unless they are accompanied by authentic social and moral progress will definitely turn against man." (Address to the FAO on the 25th anniversary of its Institution [16 November 1970], 4: AAS 62 [1970], 833.)

In his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us of our biblical exhortation to live in right relationship and cooperate with God's design for his world. We urgently oppose adoption of the proposed Rule that threatens the health and safety of all people and the earth itself.

The Leadership Team of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis
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