

# CREATION CARE



**The World and all that is in it belong to the Lord, the Earth and all who live on it are His! –Ps 24:1**

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**Confronting Climate Change on the front lines**, the U.S. Council of Mayors gets practical and positive about the need to face the realities of the warming climate on our economy and public health with their resolution on the environment. With the continuation of a dysfunctional national government, the mayors and many state legislatures are moving ahead on common sense responses that directly address the negative human practices that add to our climate problem.



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

**85<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

June 23-26, 2017 in Miami Beach, FL

2017 Adopted Resolutions

## Environment

### Supporting a Cities-Driven Plan to Reverse Climate Change

**WHEREAS**, the Paris Agreement adopted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change specifically identifies the importance of local governments in the role of environmental protection; and

**WHEREAS**, research from The United States Conference of Mayors states that cities comprise 91% of the United States' Gross Domestic Product, placing Mayors at the center of marrying environmental protection with economic growth; and

**WHEREAS**, cities are already having to invest billions of dollars annually in infrastructure and support services to deal with climate change's impacts of heat waves, droughts, and torrential rain events; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2015 report from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency showed that aggressively combatting climate change would result in 12,000 fewer deaths in major U.S. cities due to extreme heat; up to \$2.8 billion in avoided flooding costs; and \$6.4 billion in avoided urban drainage costs by 2100; and

**WHEREAS**, the Clean Power Plan as proposed by the Obama Administration was not only designed to significantly move the United States towards its proposed Nationally Determined Contribution but also encourage cities to move forward with clean energy initiatives through the Clean Energy Incentive Program; and

**WHEREAS**, recent actions by the Trump Administration, including the rollback of Clean Power Plan regulations, the rollback of updated fuel efficiency standards, and steep cuts to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, although cities cannot formally "join" the Paris Agreement it is increasingly important for Mayors to commit to doing their part on climate action via aggressive policies and programs that reduce our environmental footprint while promoting a 21st century economy,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the Trump Administration and Congress to support the fight against climate change by fully committing themselves to the Paris Climate Accord, the Clean Power Plan, the Clean Energy Incentive Program, and other efforts that will provide cities the tools they need to combat climate change; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayors of The United States Conference of Mayors commit to partnerships and convening that strengthen ties between cities around climate change.



**The rains came down and the floods came up! Hurricanes feed off of warm ocean temperatures, like fire relies on a steady supply of oxygen to keep burning.** Warming global temperatures mean warmer ocean water, arctic ice melt, rising sea levels, increased evaporation, and heavier rains. **The formula is certain: warmer water brings more hurricanes, rising sea levels and heavier rainfalls.** What has happened with Hurricane Harvey and Irma is the new reality for our climate – ready or not!

Living along coastlines, especially those whose land mass is at or near current sea levels, will continue to be dangerous and costly. Our urban sprawl with its inadequate drainage and waterways will continue to flood. Low laying coastal areas will become more and more vulnerable as seas rise and storms increase. Much of New Orleans, for example, is built in a big hole in the ground and many parts of Florida are only three feet above current sea levels.

The new climate realities require that we learn how to manage population density in ways that will reduce evacuation, search and rescue congestion. Uninterrupted urban sprawl must be replaced by urban “islands” that allow for open spaces between them where flood waters can accumulate and rapidly runoff. **“Rebuild” must be balanced with the need to “relocate.”** Our economy and resources can no longer be wasted in rebuilding when that is foolish in the midst of developing climate realities and land use. **Without losing our creativity, we must be humble enough to realize that human technology and infrastructure are no match for the mighty forces of nature.**

Human mistakes contribute to the length and breadth of “natural disasters.” Population growth and various economic and political systems are squeezing both earth’s resources and space as never before in history. God’s plan is that we live in harmony with his creation. The feeling that we can endlessly bend nature to fit our conceptions, ingenuity, and need lies at the heart of our egocentric bent to sin. We must find another way of living. ☩



**“Nature is School-Mistress, the Soul the Pupil; and whatever Nature has taught, or the Soul has learned, has come from God – the Teacher of the teacher.** – From the: *De Testimonio Animae*



Tertullian (155-240 AD) was a prolific early Christian author from Carthage in the province of Africa. He was the first Christian author to produce an extensive corpus of Latin Christian literature. He also was an early Christian apologist and a polemicist against heresy. Including Gnosticism. Tertullian has been called “the father of Latin Christianity” and “the founder of Western theology.” ☩

**COAL was once the monopoly fuel in our country and its decline has hurt many workers who have been tied to its production and use for generations.** In his campaign,



Mr. Trump promised to renew the mining and use of coal. Toward that goal his EPA administrator, Scott Pruitt, ordered a two-year postponement of the Obama administrations tighter controls on lead, mercury, arsenic and other coal plant wastes by delaying the rule’s effective date to November 2020. Rules to prevent the dumping of coal mining wastes in streams, a moratorium of mine leases in the west, and rules for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants have been cancelled or are in the process of being cancelled in further attempts to bring back coal jobs.

Major coal executives, on the other hand, see the handwriting on the wall and are busy shutting down coal-fired plants in favor of cleaner, more affordable energy sources like natural gas, wind, and solar power. Last April, Chris Beam, head of Appalachian Power, West Virginia’s largest utility, said: “We’re not going to build any more coal plants; that’s not going to happen.” Lynn Good, the head of Duke Energy, America’s largest utility, will close 12 coal plants across 5 years. He said: “Our strategy will continue to be to drive carbon out of our business.” The huge Navajo Generating Station in Arizona will shut down at the end of 2019, 2 decades earlier than planned. ☩



## ARE ELECTRIC CARS THE FUTURE?

**Volvo Cars** announced that from 2019, all of its cars will be electrified in a gasoline-hybrid or a battery-powered electric vehicle. **Tesla**, the electric car leader, plans to produce 20,000 units by December of this year. Its Model 3 brings a good-looking, range anxiety-free, state-of-the-art pure electric car for around \$35,000. **Volkswagen** says it will electrify one in four of its future cars, powering them by electric or hybrid motors. **Porsche** announced that all of its cars will be electrified inside of 10 years. It hinted that its biggest selling Macan will appear as a pure electric vehicle by 2022. ☺



## CHINA, has surprised the world by making unexpected progress in controlling air pollution and in using sustainable energy.

Qinghai province, an area larger than the state of Texas, with a population of 5.8 million, ran for an entire week (June 17-23) only on wind, solar, and hydroelectric power. 1.1 billion kilowatt hours of electricity was produced with these renewable sources. It would have required 535,000 tons of coal to do the same thing. The experiment provided a new world record. The province gets more than 3,000 hours of daylight every year and is home to the world's largest solar farm.

China hopes to become a global leader in green energy production and plans to spend \$360 billion on renewable energy by 2020. It is estimated that their investment will create 13 million new jobs.

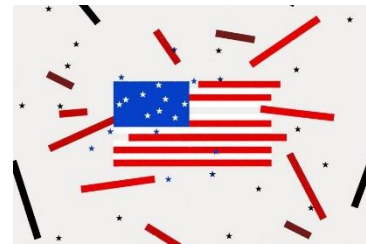
Coal use in China has declined for 3 years in a row and they recently scrapped plans to build more than 100 coal power plants in favor of a switch to renewables.

China is also a leading producer of inexpensive solar panels. They are of such high quality that their export to and use in the USA has prompted a push, by American energy firms for tariff protection. ☺

## AS THE ARTIC GETS WARMER, OUR WINTERS GET COLDER?



The loss of Arctic sea-ice and snow cover seems to be influencing weather at lower latitudes. The warmer Arctic appears to be creating shifts in atmospheric patterns which bring severe cold conditions (now referred to as "Polar Freezes") in northern North America and lower precipitation in the South Central United States reducing crop yields over the area. The fact that our climate is slowly warming makes these outbreaks of extreme cold seem very odd. How long these anomalies will last is anyone's guess at this point. ☺



## THE AMERICAN DREAM OR NIGHTMARE?

(Image by Delcan and Company)

How is our nation doing these days? One good way to evaluate that is to look at how our children are doing. Consider the following information from Globalization and the American Dream by Helena Norberg-Hodge and Steven Gorelick.

8.3 million American children and adolescents require psychiatric drugs; over 2 million are on anti-depressants, and another 2 million are on anti-anxiety drugs.

Our girls tend to suffer from eating disorders and violent behavior is a common affliction among our boys. We have had more than 150 school shootings since 1990 claiming 165 lives. The youngest shooter was a six-year old boy.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15 to 24 year olds. A study in 2013 found that 17% of our high school students "seriously considered suicide" during the preceding year.

The average 8 to 10 year old spends nearly 8 hours a day with various media; older children and teenagers spend more than 11 hours a day with media. TIME IN NATURE, considered essential for our well-being, has all but disappeared with only 10% spending time outside on a daily basis!

Overall, depression afflicts 16 million Americans and one-third do not respond to treatment.

Generally, our society believes in the need for violence and accepts it as a normal part of American life. Most of our heroes use violence in their heroic conduct. Our entertainment is filled to the brim with violent acts. Most of

the childhood “heros” are violent characters. Video games are dominated by violence. In an interview with Time Magazine (6-2017), Patty Jenkins, the director of the blockbusting *Wonder Woman*, said: “Our fantasy of a hero is that he’s the good guy who is going to shut down the bad guy. That has got to change if we want to deal with the crisis that we’re in. There is no bad guy. We are all to blame. **New kinds of heroics need to be celebrated, like love, thoughtfulness, forgiveness, diplomacy, or we’re not going to make it.** No one is coming to save us.”

Our national reaction to threat is not negotiation but the protection of a standing strong military whose forces are scattered throughout the whole world. While politicians argue about being a “welfare state” on the road toward “socialism” and argue over every nickel and dime spent on entitlements and social programs, military spending goes unsupervised and uncontested. Government auditors have found the Pentagon’s books un-auditable for almost a decade without a word of complaint from the Congress. The U.S. Senate just voted to spend \$700 billion on the military. As Ron Paul wrote, “we have become a warfare state fighting endless wars” all in the name of “protecting the American People.” Violent crime, according to the FBI, has increased since 2016, we have a growing national drug addiction crisis, a deep political divide in which democratic norms are breached, and a proliferation of hate groups ennobled by a lack of political condemnation. Former WW II Supreme Allied Commander and 34<sup>th</sup> President of the USA, Dwight David Eisenhower said “Only Americans can hurt America.” It appears that the greatest “threats to the American People” do not come from without but from within. Our federal spending and programs should reflect that inner reality if we are to be faithful in our God given task to protect and advance ourselves along with the rest of creation. ☩



**PLASTIC IS  
TOUGH,  
PLIABLE,  
LIGHT-  
WEIGHT,  
DURABLE  
AND IN A**

**NEW SENSE, VERY PERSONAL;  
much of it lasts forever in one form or another.**

The global fishing industry alone dumps an estimated 150,000 tons of plastic into the oceans each year, including packaging, plastic nets, lines and buoys. We Americans use 2.5 million plastic bottles EVERY HOUR!

Scientists figure that roughly 15% to 40% of that plastic enters the ocean each year.

There are five areas in the world’s oceans where the currents circle or spiral around. These large watery “catch basins” are called Gyre’s. Their locations: North Pacific Gyre, South Pacific Gyre, North Atlantic Gyre, South Atlantic Gyre, and The Indian Ocean Gyre. Together they hold an estimated 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic that the ocean current slowly brings together. Of that mass, 269,000 tons float on the surface. Plastic waste is estimated by computer modeling based on sample swaths taken from the Gyres, Beach surveys and newly entering trash (some places continue to use the ocean waters as garbage dumps).

It is estimated that plastic garbage in the ocean kills at least one million sea creatures every year usually by ingesting it as food. They fill their stomachs with plastic and die of starvation; but, here is a new wrinkle: **PLASTIC MICROFIBERS.**

As the plastic pummels and breaks into ever smaller pieces it emits microscopic fibers into the oceans, lakes and streams. Scientists estimate that there are some four billion plastic microfibers per square kilometer of ocean water. These microfibers are now found almost everywhere; in the sea-food we eat and in the water that we drink!

What are the health effects of these fibers in our bodies? How many are passed out of our bodies through our digestive system and how many are not? What happens to them when they accumulate in our bodies? At this point we simply do not have the answers to these questions. ☩

### **October Remembrances**

October glows with colors bright  
as days slip quickly into night.  
The air moves sharply from warm to cold;  
the Sun drops slowly from high to low.  
October moves from bright toward bleak  
reminding us of memories sweet;  
of persons dear who have flown away  
into eternity and its new day.  
So, mark it well this seasonal change,  
for it holds promises of endless range.  
God’s greatest blessings and eternal plan  
are filled with potential, oh so grand!

Celebrate All Saints & All Souls Day at the end of October