

# Archbishop Wenski Urges Congress to Answer Pope Francis' Call to Protect Creation and Support Implementation of a National Carbon Standard

June 24, 2015

WASHINGTON— The chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, urged Congress to answer Pope Francis' call to protect creation and oppose legislation and appropriation riders that would reverse efforts to develop a national standard to reduce carbon pollution from existing power plants.

“The U.S. bishops stand united with the Holy Father in his call to protect creation,” said Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, in letters to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, June 24.

Archbishop Wenski emphasized the importance of Pope Francis' encyclical on ecology, *Laudato Si'*, released last week where Pope Francis “called on all people to care for God's creation and our common home for the well-being of current and future generations.”

“Our Conference has long spoken out on the importance of prudent action to address the growing impact of global climate change,” wrote Archbishop Wenski. “As government leaders, we ask you to resist any effort to impair the development of a national carbon standard and instead to support our nation's ability to address this urgent global challenge confronting the human family.”

His letter to Congress is available online at [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/letter-to-congress-on-carbon-standards-2015-06-24.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/letter-to-congress-on-carbon-standards-2015-06-24.cfm)

Archbishop Wenski along with Bishop Pates, former Chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace also wrote a previous July 30, 2014 letter to the EPA expressing support for a national carbon standard: [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/environmental-justice-program/upload/Comments-to-EPA-from-Archbishop-Wenski-Bishop-Pates-on-carbon-pollution-standards-2014-07-30.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/environmental-justice-program/upload/Comments-to-EPA-from-Archbishop-Wenski-Bishop-Pates-on-carbon-pollution-standards-2014-07-30.pdf)