

Testimony to the State Energy Efficiency Advisory Council Hearing

October 6, 2009

Boston, MA

Rev. Dr. Judith E. Wright

I am a Unitarian Universalist parish minister serving for my seventh year my congregation in Northborough. I also serve as Board Member for the UU Mass Action Network, "a statewide network of ministers and lay members representing Massachusetts Unitarian Universalist churches and fellowships."¹

On a national level, my faith of Unitarian Universalism has created a *Statement of Conscience*, honed over many years, and finalized in 2006 on the issue of Global Warming. This Statement calls us as a people of faith to: *to join with others to halt practices that fuel global warming/climate change, to instigate sustainable alternatives, and to mitigate the impending effects of global warming/climate change with just and ethical responses.*"²

My congregation, as well as other Unitarian Universalist congregations, have taken this Statement of Conscience to heart, and to direct action. We are greening our religious buildings, and are working towards greening our individual homes.

¹ http://uumassaction.org/who_are_we

² <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/8061.shtml>

During our 2008 Unitarian Universalist General Assembly

I was blessed to listen to a lecture (The Ware Lecture)

given by Van Jones, environmental activist from California.

Van Jones helped those of us present

realize the need for **an equitable green economy**.

Such an economy Van Jones stated must include

*those who were most harmed by the fossil fuel economy.*³

Tonight we are talking, in part, about *equal protection and equal opportunity for all in this age of ecological crisis.*⁴

Van Jones charged all of us present at his lecture in 2008 *to not leave any one behind.*

I am here tonight to witness

to our need for fair solutions to resources for greening,

so that we do *not leave any one behind.*

Equity is a moral issue.

The greening of our Commonwealth must include

those who were most harmed by the fossil fuel economy.

When utility companies prepare their plans, let's have such plans be equitable,

so that everyone, not just the affluent, in the state may benefit.

I also believe it would be best if a subcommittee is formed

to monitor this issue of equity over the life of the plan.

³ <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/2008/commonthreads/115749.shtml>

⁴ *Ibid.*

Lastly, the Faith Community has reported
as part of Green Communities Act input
that too much of the burden falls on low income communities,
and equity and community input are critical to reaching the act's goals.

I hope that what arises from the work of your committee (EEAC)
is a community-driven approach
to implementing this plan, engaging first those communities
that are low-income and communities of color.

May we be cognizant of our interconnections,
and help one another to green our state in a fair and equitable manner,
so that we can help future generations – our children, and their children,
live in better harmony with our Earth.

I thank you for listening to my testimony on this vital issue.