

This is the moment for which we have been waiting. Last year, the UCC's Council for Climate Justice issued [a call to action](#) for churches that spoke of this moment as a *kairos* moment, a God-charged moment of possibility that paradoxically occurs during times of crisis. In calling for an all-out mobilization to address the twin crises of climate and inequality, the Council framed this period as presenting a window of opportunity. Not since this call to action has the window been open as wide as it is now with Congress considering the [Reconciliation Build Back Better Bill](#). In terms of legislation that is within reach of having sufficient votes to pass, this is the best legislation that our country has ever seen on climate.

An important climate component of this \$3.5 trillion bill has gained attention due to opposition from Senator Manchin, whose vote is essential to pass the legislation. Manchin objects to the \$150 billion price tag placed on the bill's proposed Clean Electricity Performance Program which would use the financial carrots and sticks of incentives and fines to encourage utilities to switch toward renewable energy. To the average person, \$150 billion can certainly sound like a lot of money, but remember to put this number in context. As one recent headline put it, "[Cost of Build Back Better Proposal: \\$3.5 Trillion, Cost of Catastrophic Climate Change: \\$551 Trillion](#)." Remember as well that the \$3.5 trillion price tag of the bill is spread over ten years and that we spend \$700 billion each year on our military.

Too often, powerful interests place the planet and people on the chopping block when it comes to policy fights. A [recent article](#) from CNN Business pointed to how the oil industry is going "all-out" to stop the climate measures in Build Back Better.

Now is not the time for the defeatist rationalizations of "there-is-nothing-we-can-do" or "the-bill-does-not-do-enough." It is not the time for throwing in the cards before the game is played, or the moral purism of those who never play at all. If people of faith want moral progress, we have to act upon the stage set by the present moment. Otherwise, we risk becoming mere spectators to the great moral drama of our time.

So, what to do? Do [an online action alert that urges no compromising on climate](#), but also look for ways to do more than that. Consider holding a vigil outside the local office of your representative or senator. The stakes are high, and our actions should reflect the imperatives of the moment.

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