The Hon. Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P

Minister of Environment and Climate Change

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Dear Minister or Member of Parliament

I am a member of [ADD CHURCH NAME] Presbyterian Church in [PLACE]. I am deeply concerned about the climate crisis, and the impact that it is having on humans, other animals, plants, waterways, and the Earth itself but I am especially concerned because the crisis is having disproportionate impacts on already marginalized groups, especially those in the Global South.

The creation of a global loss and damage fund for countries in the Global South, announced at the most recent United Nations climate conference (COP28) in Dubai, was an important step. These countries have contributed the least to causing the crisis and yet face disproportionately more of the deadly impacts. While the global loss and damage fund is an important first step, the fund’s effectiveness is tied to the voluntary participation of countries contributing to it. Countries that have historically contributed the most to the climate crisis (including countries in Western Europe, Canada and United States), have a responsibility to contribute reparative funds at a level that reflects their responsibility. Additionally, the fund’s administration must reflect equitable and just outcomes (and not, for example, increase the debt of vulnerable countries).

Canada’s $16 million CAD pledge is a good start but falls far short of what is needed. The scale of losses in the Global South is estimated to be more than $400 billion USD per year. To date, global pledges to the fund are approximately only $700 million USD, which is considered to cover less than 0.2% of what is needed. In light of this, I am asking that the Canadian government works to significantly increase Canada’s contribution to the global loss and damage fund—and that the government advocate with other countries to ensure that the fund is administered equitably and justly.

The Government of Canada is only one of many parties that needs to come together to address the climate crisis, but your leadership is crucial. Thank you for the efforts you have already made. I offer prayers of support for you in your difficult and imperative work to address the climate crisis.

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]