

# SPEAK UP!

**CREATION  
CARE**  at West End UMC

## Letter Writing Campaign

1

1

## Scripture...

- ▶ We are called to stewardship, justice, and compassion
- ▶ Often, people who suffer injustice need other voices in addition to or on behalf of theirs in order to be heard
- ▶ As people of faith, we are to love and care for our neighbors, and to bear one another's burdens

2

2

## ...and Tradition

- ▶ Our United Methodist Social Principles show us as people of faith
- ▶ HOW—
  - To live justly and love with compassion
  - To speak up and take action

3

## What you gain now...

- ▶ Knowledge about the issue
- ▶ Practice thinking through what YOU want to say
- ▶ Information for sending your letter

4

## WHY write a letter

- ▶ Big problems require big solutions
- ▶ **Systems need to change**
- ▶ Government, corporations, businesses have impact
- ▶ Individuals, churches, organizations can speak up and push for change

5

## WHY write a letter

- ▶ To encourage supportive or undecided decision makers in their advocacy
- ▶ To provide opposing decision makers information and constituent feedback that may lead to their reconsideration
- ▶ To educate inexperienced staffers who are often the first to read the letter

6

## What happens to my letter

- ▶ Council people read their letters
- ▶ Legislators, governors, mayors have staff who screen and decide what gets sent on
- ▶ Some letters will get a tally mark for or against
- ▶ Letters that have stories (1-4 lines) are read

7

## Issue: Landfill expansion/Bordeaux

- ▶ Who is affected? How?  
Black community
- ▶ Why creation justice?  
Landfill & injustice

8

## Issue: Landfill expansion/Bordeaux

▶ Who has the power?

State

Mayor, Council (Jackson Law→local power)

▶ What's the “ask”?

Invoke Jackson Law, honor the community,  
look for alternatives now & in future

9

## 1. Complete these statements

▶ My name is \_\_\_\_\_

▶ I am a \_\_\_\_\_

▶ I care about this issue because \_\_\_\_\_

▶ I am particularly interested in the part of  
the proposal that \_\_\_\_\_

10

## From idea to letter

- ▶ My name is \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ I am a \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ I care about this issue because \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ I am particularly interested in the part of the proposal that \_\_\_\_\_

11

11

## Starting from faith

- ▶ You can speak from a faith perspective about creation care and environmental justice
- ▶ You don't have to know every detail about the particulars of the policy, but do know enough to be conversant

12

12

## Remember...

- ▶ Assume the person is an ally
- ▶ Don't worry about writing a perfect letter, but do a draft and edit it yourself
- ▶ Don't expect a response, but include a question that invites a response
- ▶ Include your contact information

13

13

## Keep in mind...

- ▶ Legislators have said they want to hear from people of faith
- ▶ 6+ letters or calls about an issue get attention
- ▶ Unique content with stories is best
- ▶ Form letters just get counted

14

14

## Original letter = Power!

- ▶ Staff screen the mail. An original letter, typed or handwritten, gets attention
- ▶ Use a card, postcard, stationery (personal or plain)
- ▶ However! You can cut-and-paste and personalize to reach different people

15

15

## What's important is to SPEAK UP!

- ▶ Use the tools you are most comfortable with.
- ▶ Handwrite or type, or email, or call!

16

16

## Contact info

For this issue, write to any or all of these—

- ▶ Mayor, your council person, at-large council members, council person of affected area
- ▶ Governor, state representative, state senator

17

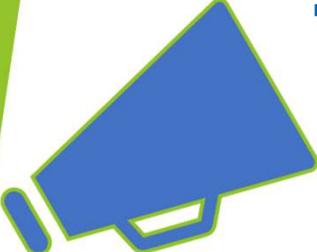
17

[westendumc.org/creation-care-advocacy](http://westendumc.org/creation-care-advocacy)



18

18



# Thank you!

**CREATION**  
**CARE**  at West End UMC

For more information,  
email Crys Zinkiewicz:  
[crysz1122@gmail.com](mailto:crysz1122@gmail.com)

## SPEAK UP!

19