



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



18

18



Thank you!

CREATION CARE 
at West End UMC

For more information,
email Crys Zinkiewicz:
crysz1122@gmail.com

SPEAK UP!

19