



**USCCB Committee on Migration and
Committee on Domestic and Social Development**
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October 18, 2019

Dear Senator,

As Chairmen of the Committee on Migration and the Committee on Domestic and Social Development of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, we write to express our support for S. 2565, legislation that would establish a global climate change resilience strategy and authorize the admission into the United States of climate-displaced persons.

Pope Francis, in [*Laudato Sí, his encyclical on care for the environment*](#),¹ says that “the climate is a common good belonging to all and meant for all,” (*Laudato Sí*, no.23) and that “social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental destruction and to engage in ‘a culture of care’ for all of society.” (*Laudato Sí*, no. 231)

Enactment of S. 2565 would be an important step in that direction. The bill details the scientific reality of climate change, describing the international scope of the challenge and its multiplier negative social and political impacts. It would authorize U.S. actions and urge U.S. participation and leadership in international efforts to share responsibility for building resiliency and effective responses to the humanitarian impacts of climate change, including the important responses of providing humanitarian support for those impacted and pursuing durable solutions for the forcibly displaced.

We encourage all senators, all Catholics and all people of good will to support this and other efforts to care for the environment and those harmed by its destruction, and to build for our planet what Pope Francis has described as a “new and universal globalization of solidarity.” (*Laudato Sí*, no. 14)

Sincerely yours,

Most Rev. Joe S. Vásquez, Chairman
USCCB Committee on Migration
Bishop of Austin

Most Rev. Frank Dewane, Chairman
USCCB Committee on Domestic and Social
Development
Bishop of Venice

¹ Pope Francis, *Encyclical Letter Laudato Sí*, , [The Vatican](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html), 5 24 2015, accessed 9 16 2019 at
http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html