October 6, 2015

Congressman John Boehner

1011 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC  20515

Dear Congressman Boehner,

The Dominican Sisters Conference represents some 4,000 women serving in positions of leadership all over these United States and beyond. We write to you from the heart of our 800 year charism as the Order of Preachers, 400 delegates gathered in Chicago and united with our Dominican Sisters and Brothers throughout the world.

In our 2012 gathering, following the momentum created at the United Nations 2012 Conference in Rio, we invited our members into a concentrated focus on the issue of Global Climate Change. The enclosed DVD*: The Faith Praxis Cycle and Global Climate Change*, was a product of this focus, and captures our particular perspective on this issue as leaders in the faith community. In the fall of 2014 we stepped up our efforts in preparation for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) that will soon convene in Paris. You have heard from many of us during this time encouraging bold leadership on the part of the United States so that COP21 will deliver a meaningful climate agreement.

We acknowledge the differences in perception that we have with you regarding global climate change. It is time, however, to put all of this behind us. We implore you to recognize within the issue of global climate change, however it is perceived, a unique opportunity to partner with other countries as well as the private sector in the creation of a sustainable energy and lifestyles which in the big picture will only serve to enhance the well-being of this country and lay the foundation for a more peaceful future. We urge you, moreover, to consider the fate of those peoples and countries who have had the least to do with the creation of the climate crises, yet whose very future is imminently threatened by it. It is, therefore, critical that our country follow through on its pledges to the Green Climate Fund. We call on you to release these funds in a timely manner so that the global community can implement strategies of adaptation and mitigation which secure the safety of the most disadvantaged at that the same time that the world develops the new technology necessary to build a sustainable energy future.

 On our part we wish to make you aware that among our membership, some 17 congregations of sisters of the Dominican Order in the United States have endorsed a Climate Investment Proposal in
which they have pledged to develop appropriate strategies promoting investment in climate solutions. Not only will we pursue these strategies ourselves, but in our positions of leadership we will advocate that others do the same. Additionally we will commission four of our members, representatives from the NGO community, to attend the UN Paris gathering. We stand ready upon its completion to advocate for the strongest possible actions to reduce the threat of global climate change for the good of God’s beloved people and all of creation. You are remembered in our prayer.

Sincerely,

Sister Sharon Zayac, OP Sister Patricia Farrell, OP

President Executive Director