NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
5/09/2022

CONTACT:
Dustyn Thompson,
Sierra Club DE Chapter
443-566-3347

ENVIRONMENTAL & FAITH COMMUNITY DEMAND ACTION
82 environmental organizations and faith-based communities deliver support letters calling for a climate emergency and state action on climate change in Delaware

DOVER: Sierra Club Delaware Chapter, Interfaith Power and Light, and the Working Families Party is set to deliver letters of support from 84 environmental organizations and houses of worship in support of their proposal to declare a climate emergency and enshrine greenhouse gas emission reduction goals into law on Tuesday morning.

"We are so far behind our neighboring states and what the climate science is telling us we need to do to avoid the worst impacts of climate change here in Delaware. President Biden has called for 50% emission reductions by 2030 and net-zero by 2050, a goal in line with the most recent IPCC report," Said Dustyn Thompson, Advocacy and Outreach Organizer from Sierra Club Delaware Chapter. "We need to support that effort and join the rest of the states in our region in establishing these emission reduction goals."

New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, New York, and up the east coast states have established ambitious climate goals in their statutes with a directive to agencies to work to achieve them. Most recently, Maryland passed a law increasing their goal to 60% emission reductions by 2031. Without a clear directive to reduce emissions and combat climate change, many state agencies are being left out of the conversation.

"Faith leaders of various faith traditions, believe climate change to be a defining moral and ethical issue of our time and an existential issue for the Creator’s whole creation. As responsible stewards, we advocate for policies that protect God’s creation—with paramount focus on the poorest and vulnerable, the least responsible for fueling this crisis, who are among the frontline victims.” Says Shweta Arya, Executive Director of Interfaith Power and Light. "Our Delaware faith leaders demand bold and transformative climate action and urge our elected officials to declare a climate emergency."

Equity needs to be at the center of our climate solutions, which is why advocates are pointing to specific equity language that is included in their proposal.

"We know that climate change will impact certain communities faster and more severely than others. While low-income communities tend to contribute fewer emissions to the climate problem, they are often the first hit and the last consulted when developing solutions,” Said Reji Gregori, an organizer from Delaware Working Families Party. “That is why we are making it clear that vulnerable communities have to be at the table when developing our plans to achieve these emission reduction goals."

###