

AFFIDAVIT OF KENNETH E. BOWERS,
SECRETARY, NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE
UNITED STATES

I, Kenneth E. Bowers, being duly sworn, do hereby declare and state:

1. I am a resident of the state of Illinois and I have personal knowledge of the facts herein.
2. I am a member and the Secretary of the governing council of the Bahá'ís of the United States, the National Spiritual Assembly (the "NSA") of the Bahá'ís of the United States. As the Secretary, I am the primary day-to-day operating officer of the NSA. The NSA is responsible for organizing and guiding the religious affairs of the Bahá'ís of the United States.
3. The Bahá'í community has been addressing environmental issues and, more specifically, climate change for several years. It has worked for more than two decades to contribute to discourses on issues related to the environment.
4. As evidenced in the findings in Volume I of the U.S. National Climate Assessment released on November 3, 2017, the impacts of carbon pollution continue to increase as average global temperatures, extreme weather events, and global sea levels continue to rise. The impacts span across all regions and sectors of the U.S. economy, and the projected impacts from doing little about our emissions are severe, especially for our current youth and children as the next century approaches. To protect our children, the situation calls for the recognition of a fundamental right to a stable climate system that should be protected rather than violated by governmental action.
5. Bahá'ís are guided by a firm belief in the principle of the oneness of humankind, which has profound implications for policy. Bahá'ís believe that a recognition of this principle leads naturally to an acknowledgement of the organic interrelatedness and

interdependence of all of the people of the planet regardless of nationality, race, sex, class, religion, or age. No one is unimportant. Ultimately, the best interests of the entire human family can best be served by assuring the welfare of each component part. Justice therefore requires that the interests of the marginalized or the powerless, whether the poor or the young, must be protected. Within the context of climate change, this means that significant reductions in our carbon emissions must occur so as to reduce the projected weather and pollution burdens we have unfairly shifted onto the poor, the young, and future generations. They and all of us are entitled, “as fundamental to a free and ordered society,” as Judge Aiken held at the District Court level, “to a climate system capable of sustaining human life.”

6. We cannot continue to emit current levels of carbon into the atmosphere, knowing the harmful impact it will have, particularly on our children and youth, as well as all life on the planet.
7. Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith, states in his Writings that the natural world is a reflection of the attributes of God, its Creator. Beauty, majesty, power, love, generosity, bounty, and many other attributes of God are reflected in His Creation. Moreover, the contemplation of nature creates an awareness of the “signs” and “tokens” of God and constitutes proof of His existence. “[W]hatever I behold I readily discover that it maketh Thee known unto me, and it remindeth me of Thy signs, and of Thy tokens, and of Thy testimonies. By Thy glory! Every time I lift up mine eyes unto Thy heaven, I call to mind Thy highness and Thy loftiness, and Thine incomparable glory and greatness; and every time I turn my gaze to Thine earth, I am made to recognize the evidences of Thy power and the tokens of Thy bounty. And when I behold the sea, I find

that it speaketh to me of Thy majesty, and of the potency of Thy might, and of Thy sovereignty and Thy grandeur. And at whatever time I contemplate the mountains, I am led to discover the ensigns of Thy victory and the standards of Thine omnipotence.” He further adds: “Nature in its essence is the embodiment of My Name, the Maker, the Creator.” “Nature is God’s Will and is its expression in and through the contingent world. It is a dispensation of Providence ordained by the Ordainer, the All-Wise.” Our moderate, sustainable use of nature’s resources, as stewards of such a priceless bestowal, is a necessary corollary of this belief.

8. Over a hundred years ago, Bahá’u’lláh warned against the immoderate exploitation of these resources. “The civilization, so often vaunted by the learned exponents of arts and sciences, will, if allowed to overleap the bounds of moderation, bring great evil upon men. Thus warneth you He Who is the All-Knowing. If carried to excess, civilization will prove as prolific a source of evil as it had been of goodness when kept within the restraints of moderation.”
9. In addition to the moral imperative to act, technological innovation has produced a dramatic drop in the price of green energy that has rendered the choice between the economy and jobs, on the one hand, and a climate system supportive of human life and prosperity, on the other, an increasingly false dichotomy.
10. For the last several years, the American Bahá’í community has taken action to reduce its carbon emissions, both nationally and locally. We removed an old heating and air conditioning system and replaced it with a high efficiency system in our continental House of Worship in Wilmette, Illinois, where we also recently completed a LEED-certified Visitors Center. Bahá’ís in over 100 localities in 43 states have been among the

over 1700 diverse faith congregations that have taken part in the educational and awareness-raising activities of Interfaith Power and Light's annual Preach-in on Global Warming. These efforts and others like them help to raise awareness of the climate issue and emphasize the important part each of us can play in seeking solutions. But such actions alone will not be enough. We need informed, well-designed national policies, reflective of a fundamental right to a livable climate system, that will propel us, especially our children, toward a safe future.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on January 10, 2018

Kenneth E. Bowers

Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary, National Spiritual
Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the
United States

State of Illinois)
County of Cook) ss:

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 10 day of January 2018 by Kenneth E. Bowers, Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, on behalf of the corporation.



Geoffrey N. Wilson
Notary