



For Immediate Release:
January 12, 2021

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**FAITH IN PLACE ACTION FUND ENDORSES REP. CHRIS WELCH
FOR IL HOUSE SPEAKER**

*Faith in Place Action Fund stands in support of environmental and climate justice champion
Representative Emanuel "Chris" Welch for Illinois House Speaker.*

CHICAGO, IL (Jan. 12, 2021) - The Faith in Place Action Fund stands in solidarity with the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus in their unanimous support of Rep. Emanuel "Chris" Welch (D-Hillside) for Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives.

The Faith in Place Action Fund has worked closely with Rep. Welch to advance their mission: people of faith and conscience promoting political action for environmental justice in Illinois.

This included Rep. Welch being the chief sponsor of [HR234 in 2017 \(100th General Assembly\)](#), a resolution declaring "that we work together to create an environmental justice agenda that creates clean energy jobs that are accessible to all, addresses gender inequities and income disparities as we move toward a green economy, reduces recidivism rates while curbing climate change, and shapes policy that addresses the adverse and disproportionate impacts of climate change upon communities of color and economically-disadvantaged communities."

Faith in Place Action Fund has worked closely with Rep. Welch to advance this agenda. His outspoken and tireless advocacy towards passing crucial legislation such as the Clean Energy Jobs Act is evidence of his commitment to people and justice. As a result, he receives their full endorsement, as they know he is the right leader at this moment to work for justice and equity on behalf of all Illinoisans.

"Our injustices are rooted in systematic racism and this moment calls for Black leadership at the Statehouse in Springfield to advance policies that connect the dots between mass incarceration, environmentalism, and a just economy. Rep. Welch is the candidate qualified to provide us this inspired leadership." - Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, Board Chair, Faith in Place Action Fund

The Faith in Place Action Fund is ready to work with Rep. Welch as Speaker of the Illinois House to continue to champion justice and equity focused legislation. They look forward to ongoing collaboration

with the lead sponsor of the Clean Energy Jobs Act, Rep. Ann Williams (D-Chicago), who is also running for Speaker as a dedicated environmental champion.

The Faith in Place Action Fund is a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit organization that mobilizes Illinois people of diverse faiths to take justice-focused action on environmental issues that affect the wellbeing of Illinois communities. Learn more at www.faithinplaceaction.org.

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