

## **Father Richard Senghas**

Hi, I'm father Dick Senghas. Governor LePage and Council, I am the officer of ecumenical and interreligious affairs in the Catholic diocese of Portland, which includes the entire state of Maine. I speak to you today, not only on behalf of our diocese, but also of the Maine Council of Churches, for which I am on the board. I also speak on behalf of many Christian religious faiths of our state, as well as the Interfaith Power and Light and others who work for environmental concerns in our state.

A recent pope – Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI have spoken often about how we need to protect our environment, and the Vatican itself has going green in the sources of power and of carbon emissions.

Those for whom I speak believe that we have a solemn, moral duty to protect the creation God has given us. Please continue the laws and regulations that protect our environment, and advance its protection for us and our children in the future. I beg you this on behalf of my faith, and the religious faiths of our state.

In the words of Pope Benedict XVI, “Our earth is talking to us, and we must listen to it, and decipher its message, if we want to survive.”

This is our solemn moral obligation.

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Remarks at "Maine People and the Environment" roundtable with Governor LePage  
January 20, 2011 at the Augusta Civic Center  
Event sponsored by the Natural Resources Council of Maine [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org)