

**ITEM C.109**  
**FOR ACTION**

<i>FOR PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY</i>			
	A. Finance	E. Corporate Property, Legal, Finance	J. Board Nominating & Governance Subcommittee
	B. Justice	F. PC(USA), A Corporation	P. Plenary
X	C. Leadership	G. Audit	
	D. Worshiping Communities	H. Executive Committee	

**Subject:** Comment on the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2016) – Overture 076 (Business Item #09-08) “On Witnessing Against Environmental Degradation and Affirming Public Policy to Support Good Stewardship of Natural Resources” – From the Presbytery of Seattle

**Recommendation:**

**That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the following comment on Overture 076 (Business Item #09-08) “On Witnessing Against Environmental Degradation and Affirming Public Policy to Support Good Stewardship of Natural Resources” – From the Presbytery of Seattle**

**Comment:**

This overture builds upon much of our existing energy policy, most notably a 1979 General Assembly statement:

“But concern for the future cannot allow us to withhold care for "the least" who live now. We have no right to choose who lives and who dies in order to serve current economic ideologies or a privileged posterity. We have no right to squander the world's energy resources for short-term self-benefit. We are called to live simply and share liberally, while advocating the common good of all.

The church especially should evaluate all energy policy choices in terms of their impact on the poor and powerless, as well as their impact on future generations, and insist that governments and institutions observe this basic principle of justice. The needs of the poor have priority over the comfort of the rich.

We are a community of hope in God's kingdom; in light of where history is going, we can help to evaluate and reorient energy production and consumption. A less energy-intensive way of life is consistent with the values of the Kingdom; reduced material consumption may actually enhance an abundant life. The Bible envisions a peaceful world of people with claims and needs satisfied, living amiably in the community of creation and in communion with the Creator (Is. 11:69, Hos. 2:18-23, Rev. 21:2-4). A faithful response involves creative action.”– *UPCUSA, 1979, p. 275; see also PCUS, 1979, p. 191*

New policy that focuses on the impact of crude oil transport and methane extraction and processing would give the Presbyterian Mission Agency additional tools to address the specific harms related to fossil fuel reliance but not directly part of fossil fuel extraction.

Link to Overture - <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000003>