



SPJE FAITH RESOLUTION TOOLKIT

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This action is guided by the universal values of compassion and caring for all creation and the common good, and the need to live responsibly now so that others may live into the future.

Here's the [Toolkit in PDF format](#)

I. Call to Action

The SPJE Coalition Faith Campaign (SPJE.org) calls upon faith communities in Massachusetts to adopt a Faith Resolution urging Governor Healey to take all possible actions to stop the immense proposed private jet hangar expansion at Massport's Hanscom Field airport or anywhere. Note: This action concerns Massport's Hanscom Field, not Hanscom Air Force Base which has no airfield.

Why should your faith community be opposed to private jet expansion at Hanscom or anywhere?

The proposed expansion is a major environmental justice issue as expressed in a Boston Globe article: "We need to decide as a society whether it is acceptable for a small number of people to generate enormous amounts of greenhouse gas emissions for unnecessary purposes...Against the dire backdrop of climate change, the answer must be no...If we are committed to environmental justice, we cannot ask the public to make sacrifices to achieve climate objectives, [while subsidizing](#) this destructive luxury jet activity for an elite few." [*Boston Globe*: [Billionaires are responsible for large amounts of climate pollution from Hanscom, a new report finds](#)] [See also: [Oxfam study](#): Carbon Inequality Kills]

Why is it a statewide issue?

[Massport's plans](#) are a direct and immediate threat to Massachusetts efforts to combat climate change. Private jet emissions from Hanscom Field alone already cancel nearly 50% of the climate gains from all solar PV currently installed in Massachusetts. If the proposed development goes forward, that impact is expected to increase to about 70% – a setback that our Commonwealth, and the climate, cannot afford.

Even as Massachusetts accelerates its build-out of clean electric systems, following the newly passed climate bill, private jet emissions will continue to undercut climate gains made from these efforts. Why? Because the private aviation industry plans to grow indefinitely by 4-8% annually, and [private jet sales are soaring](#). This is why airport developers are pushing for more hangars.

Why should your faith community adopt this Resolution?

As a practical matter, the only viable recourse for stopping the expansion of private jet use is to stop building new hangars – at Hanscom, Logan or anywhere.

As a moral matter, we are called upon to take action for the common good – specifically, to rein in greenhouse gas emissions and environmental injustice -- by sending a strong message to Governor Healey urging her to halt this indefensible plan.

For these reasons, we strongly encourage faith communities and groups throughout Massachusetts to adopt a faith resolution using this [SPJE Faith Resolution Template](#) which reflects the universal values of compassion and caring for all creation, and the need to live responsibly now so that others may live into the future.

Private jet expansion goes against our shared values as faith communities in the following ways:

- Private jet expansion intensifies the already deep divide between environmental justice communities and the ultrawealthy.
- Private jets are the most polluting form of travel per passenger mile for their carbon footprint.
- The proposed expansion is simultaneously destructive to climate change and to Massachusetts efforts to stabilize it.

To get involved and take action, see Faith Resolution Template & Action Steps below.

II. Faith Resolution Template

[ADD YOUR LETTERHEAD HERE]

Faith Resolution

Opposing Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere

Dear Governor Healey,

[ADD the name of your faith community, or group within your larger community, here. Example: The First Parish in X or The First Parish in X Environmental Team] respectfully urges you to take all possible actions to prevent the proposed private jet hangar expansion at Hanscom Field airport or anywhere for the following reasons:

WHEREAS, as a faith community, [this is a sample paragraph for Unitarian Universalists, please modify for your faith community], we believe love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. The values we share include all the following, which we hold as inseparable and deeply interconnected: Interdependence, Pluralism, Justice, Transformation, Generosity, and Equity.

WHEREAS [only 0.003%](#) of the world's population use private jets, much of it for leisure, meaning that the private jets of 23 ultra-rich people on average emit the equivalent to 300 years' worth of emissions for the average person in the world, or over 2,000 years' worth for someone among the global poorest 50% ([Oxfam study Carbon Inequality Kills](#)) -- an intolerable environmental injustice and a deplorable use of our remaining carbon budget; and

WHEREAS, despite the worsening climate crisis and the fact that private jets are recognized as the most polluting form of travel per passenger mile for their carbon footprint, private jet use is expected to grow 4-8% annually, [private jet sales are soaring](#), and **the resulting highly polluting emissions will continue to outstrip existing and forthcoming energy efficiencies, including those anticipated from the newly passed Massachusetts climate bill;**

WHEREAS Massport, the owner and operator of Hanscom Field airport, has proposed an [immense new hangar facility](#) for private jets which would add approximately 6,000 private jet flights a year and an estimated 150,000 tons of polluting greenhouse gas emissions annually over current levels – **in direct opposition to the climate goals that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has set forth;** and

WHEREAS, private jet emissions from Hanscom Field airport alone already cancel 50% of the climate benefits from all solar PV installed in Massachusetts, and if the proposed expansion goes forward, that impact is expected to increase to approximately 70%—a setback that our Commonwealth and the climate cannot afford; and

WHEREAS, the only viable recourse to stop the expansion of private jet use is to stop hangars from being built at Hanscom, Logan, or anywhere; and

WHEREAS, now more than ever, Massachusetts must stand as a beacon for responsible climate action;

THEREFORE, be it resolved, we the undersigned:

1. Recognize that we have a moral imperative to act for a just and equitable transition to a livable climate and that expanding hangars anywhere for private jets is immoral and unconscionable; and
2. Stand in solidarity with frontline communities in their efforts to oppose private jet expansion; and
3. **Respectfully request that you take all possible actions to prevent the proposed private jet expansion at Hanscom Field airport or anywhere.**

Respectfully,

[signature(s) here]

Date: _____

On behalf of _____ *[name or title of the body/group you are signing on behalf of]*

cc: Climate Chief Melissa Hoffer, *your State Senator, your State Representative, your Select Board or City Council*

III. Action Steps & Guidelines

- **Step 1: Decide to adopt the Resolution**
- **Step 2: Customize the Resolution**
- **Step 3: Educate your faith community**
- **Step 4: Send the Resolution**
- **Step 5: Publicize your Resolution to inspire others to take action**

If you plan to adopt a Resolution, please keep us in the loop by emailing:

faith@stopprivatejetexpansion.org

Step 1	Decide to adopt the Resolution The process for adopting the Resolution may differ between faith communities, and even within faith communities. For example, the Resolution could be adopted by: • your faith community leader or governing board • a group within your faith community, for example: environmental or social justice committee • the entire body of your faith community Depending on the path you choose, adopting the Resolution will involve different decision-making processes. The first two options above might involve a decision by a few people. The third option offers a greater opportunity to educate and engage your community about the issue. Choose the right path for you and your faith community.
Step 2	Customize the Resolution Template. Create a separate working copy of the Resolution Template that you can customize, ideally on one page. You will need to customize the Template in the areas indicated in red, specifically: • your faith community's letterhead • your faith community's statement of principles (if you wish to replace the existing one) • your signer(s)' names & role(s) • your elected state and local officials' names - in the list of cc's If your faith community wishes to make modifications beyond the above, you're welcome to do so AND, we request that you email us a draft of your Resolution <u>before</u> signing and sending it to the Governor <u>to ensure accuracy</u>. Please email us at: faith@stopprivatejetexpansion.org Adopted Resolutions will be posted on our web page to inspire others: www.spje.org/faith <u>Note:</u> The Resolution Template in this Toolkit has been updated to reflect new developments and new studies that have come to light since the original version. Some Resolutions posted on our website reflect earlier versions of the Resolution, which nonetheless remain accurate and valid.
Step 3	Educate Your Faith Community Take the opportunity to educate your faith community on the importance of adopting a Faith Resolution urging Governor Healey to take all possible actions to prevent the proposed jet hangar expansion at Hanscom Field airport or anywhere, for example: • introduce the SPJE Faith Resolution concept in your church newsletter, etc. • share Background Information, Handouts and Resources, lawn signs, SPJE petition, etc • organize information sessions with opportunities for Q&A (--we can provide the speakers!)

Step 4	Send the Resolution Once your faith community, or group within your faith community, has drafted and agreed to adopt the Resolution, please: • Put your organization's letterhead on your Resolution • Include signers' roles with signatures, e.g., "On behalf of [your environmental or social justice committee, board, or faith community's name]" - and date • By US Postal Service*, send your original signed Resolution to: Governor Maura Healey Office of the Governor, State House, Room 280 24 Beacon St., Boston MA 02133 <i>* The only way to reach the Governor by email is via an online email form which does not allow attachments, so your Resolution's letterhead & formatting would be lost. That's why we recommend snail mail in this instance.</i> • By Email, send cc's to: ○ Climate Chief Hoffer at: melissa.hoffer@mass.gov ○ Your State Senator & Representative: you can find your state legislators here ○ Your Select Board or City Council (find on your town or city website, or call them)
Step 5	Publicize Your Success Spread the word that you adopted a Faith Resolution urging Governor Healey to stop private jet expansion at Hanscom or anywhere! For example: • post your signed Resolution on your faith community's website • publish it in your local and regional faith newsletters • announce it in a Letter to the Editor in your local paper, or ask a reporter to write a story about it • <i>and please share any & all publicity with us, so we can post them on our website! Email them to: faith@stopprivatejetexpansion.org</i> <i>Hearing about your decision to adopt a Resolution will help encourage and spur others into action!</i>
SPECIAL REQUEST	BY SEPARATE EMAIL ONLY! - SPECIAL REQUEST: By separate email (not cc), please send us a copy of your final, signed Resolution on letterhead as a pdf, Word doc or Google doc – so we can post it on our website to inspire others to take similar action! Please email it to: faith@stopprivatejetexpansion.org

IV. Additional Actions & Information

A. Additional Actions - *please consider the following:*

1. Sign our [Petition to the Governor](#) - now over 14,000 signatures across Massachusetts! - and share it widely to help us reach 15,000! Note: This is the best and easiest way to receive our occasional, timely Action Alerts & Updates.

2. Encourage other faith communities you're connected with to adopt a Resolution by sharing SPJE's [Faith Resolution web page](#) to build momentum to send a strong message to the Governor.

3. Have your faith community join SPJE, if it hasn't yet.

Note: Adopting the Resolution and becoming an SPJE partner are two distinct actions. Adopting the Resolution does not automatically make your faith community an SPJE Coalition member - *so please take this additional step!*

What SPJE asks of our partners:

- that you allow us to add your name to our list of members on our website and materials; and
- that you share our occasional Action Alerts & Updates with your members and network

SPJE has grown to [over 100 partners](#) from Boston to the Berkshires – *we started with 10 local groups in May 2023!* You'll see a number of faith organizations among our partners. Let us know if yours would like to join, too, by emailing us: faith@stopprivatejetexpansion.org - we look forward to welcoming you!

B. Additional Information

[BACKGROUND INFORMATION](#) to help with your educational & publicity efforts. It includes:

- Proposed Hanscom expansion - overview
- Key achievements in support of our goal
- News coverage of proposed expansion + SPJE's campaign to stop it
- Statements from Legislators & Others opposing the proposed private jet expansion
- Links to SPJE video presentations & webinars
- and more!

RECENT STUDIES on private jet aviation impacts – particularly relevant to the Faith Resolution action:

- **Oxfam Study: *Carbon Inequality Kills* (10/28/24):**
 - [Billionaires Spew More CO2 Pollution In 90 Minutes Than Average Person In A Lifetime](#)
 - **Swedish Study (11/7/24) on soaring private jet flights & emissions:**
 - [Used like taxis': Soaring private jet flights drive up climate-heating emissions](#)
- [For more studies, click here](#)

Thank you for your support and engagement!

With appreciation, SPJE Faith Resolution Campaign members:

Corinne Doud, Member of First Parish in Bedford, Massachusetts

Janet Rothrock, Member of First Parish in Concord, Massachusetts

Sue Swanson, Member of the Episcopal Creation Care Justice Network in Massachusetts

Paul Dale, Member of the Environmental Ministries Team, Southern New England

Conference United Church of Christ

To get started, or learn more, please contact us at: faith@stopprivatejetexpansion.org
or visit www.spje.org