



Dear Representative Van Hollen,
Happy *Tu Bishvat*! *Tu Bishvat*, the Jewish New Year for Trees, is a time when many Jewish communities explore the importance of protecting the environment. This year for the holiday, our community is learning about climate change and how to advocate for sustainable energy policies.

Climate change is causing more frequent extreme weather events and heat waves around the world. As Jews, we are concerned that the poorest and most vulnerable, who have often done the least to contribute to the problem, tend to suffer the most. Our reliance on fossil fuels also poses security risks for the United States and Israel and is a public health issue, linked to an increase in heat-induced heart attacks, respiratory ailments, infectious diseases, and premature deaths.

As your constituents and in honor of *Tu Bishvat*, we encourage you to support policies that promote renewable energy and reduce our nation's reliance on fossil fuels such as oil and coal that are contributing to climate change and energy dependence. Together, we can leave our future generations a cleaner, healthier, and safer world.

Wishing you a happy and sustainable 2014.

Sincerely,
Members of the Kayamut Silver Spring Sustainability Circle
Silver Spring, MD