



Advocacy Update

Sent February 14, 2013

WRJ and State of the Union

Earlier this week, Rabbi Marla J. Feldman was part of a group of Reform Jewish leaders who [set out their policy priorities](#) that they hoped would be included in President Obama's State of the Union address. In particular, Rabbi Feldman highlighted the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#) and the [Violence Against Women Act](#) as legislative items that are important to WRJ that we hoped the President would address. Last night's speech did discuss both of these topics, as well as many other WRJ and URJ priorities such as [immigration](#), [climate change](#), and [gun control](#). We hope to see the President and Congress follow up on these important issues in the weeks, months and years to come.

Jewish Energy Guide

As part of our ongoing efforts to support [environmental causes](#), WRJ has partnered with COEJL – the Coalition for the Environment and Jewish Life – to help raise these issues in the Jewish community. COEJL is in the process of releasing an energy guide, which presents a comprehensive Jewish approach to the challenges of energy security and climate change and offers a blueprint for the Jewish community to achieve a 14% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by September 2014, which is the next *shmittah* (sabbatical) year in the Jewish calendar. The [third part of this guide](#) was released last week, and (along with great [earlier articles](#)) is a great resource for starting these important conversations in our home sisterhoods and congregations.