

December 1, 2015

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of our more than 150 environmental, social justice, indigenous, and health organizations, who collectively represent millions of Americans, we thank you for taking important steps to keep fossil fuels in the ground by rejecting the Keystone XL Pipeline and cancelling some upcoming Arctic lease sales. We are equally grateful that your administration continues to harness the Clean Air Act's successful pollution-reduction tools to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the Clean Power Plan and rules for transportation sources. These are important steps, but much more will be necessary if we hope to avert the worst impacts of climate change.

The actions taken in the next decade will either avert the worst harms from climate disruption by limiting warming to below 1.5° Celsius or commit the world to unacceptable harms for billions of people. You have the capability to negotiate a climate agreement in Paris that will mark the turning point in the world's efforts to avert catastrophic climate damage and thus protect the human rights of present and future generations.

In order to do so, we ask that you:

- greatly increase our country's emissions reduction commitment for Paris—as demanded by both science and justice;
- pledge to keep at least 80 percent of U.S. proven fossil fuels reserves in the ground; and
- finance a just transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050 in the U.S. and contribute the U.S.'s fair share of finance for adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage in developing countries.

President George H.W. Bush signed and the Senate ratified the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992. In so doing, the U.S. agreed to take the actions necessary to avoid dangerous climate change, and also agreed as a matter of fairness that the world's rich, developed countries, having caused the vast majority of the problem, would take the lead in solving it. Today, the U.S. remains the world's largest cumulative carbon emitter. Having caused the greatest share of the problem to date, the U.S. must now meet its obligations to respond, and must understand that human rights, equity and fairness matter and are vital to unlocking cooperation in the international negotiations.

Independent scientific analysis demonstrates that our country's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) is not yet consistent with keeping warming below even 2° Celsius. A far greater commitment will be necessary to account for our nation's historic responsibility and serve as the basis of a just international agreement. A recent [Civil Society Review](#) concludes that the current U.S. INDC represents only about one-fifth of our country's fair share of mitigation action. For these reasons, in advance of the Paris talks we urge you to greatly

increase the U.S. commitment to reduce emissions at home and finance a just transition abroad, in line with what science and justice demand.

You have stated that the transition to a clean energy economy is going more quickly than anticipated, and that “if we’re going to prevent large parts of this Earth from becoming not only inhospitable but uninhabitable in our lifetimes, we’re going to have to keep some fossil fuels in the ground rather than burn them and release more dangerous pollution into the sky.” As a fundamental policy to achieving our emissions goals, leaving fossil fuels in the ground is critical to protect people from the ravages of oil, gas, and coal extraction. A [major study](#) from Stanford University found that that it is feasible for the U.S. to achieve 100 percent renewable energy by 2050, and that doing so will generate a net increase of two million American jobs and a reduction of approximately 62,000 air pollution-related deaths per year.

A study by Carbon Tracker has demonstrated that the world needs to keep 80 percent of proven fossil fuel reserves in the ground if we are to keep warming below even 2° Celsius. As the leader of the world’s largest historical emitter, we urge you to exert leadership by pledging to keep at least 80 percent of U.S. proven fossil fuel reserves in the ground. Two critical first steps are needed in order to implement this pledge: (1) placing a ban on fracking and other dangerous extraction techniques, and (2) ending fossil fuel leasing on public lands and waters to keep these publicly owned resources in the ground where they belong.

Finally, we urge to you commit to financing a just transition to a renewable economy at home and abroad. We request that you exert pressure immediately on Congress to make good on the \$3 billion pledge to the Green Climate Fund. In Paris, the U.S. should commit to a clear roadmap for the provision by developed countries of \$100 billion in public, grant-based funds for climate actions in developing countries by 2020, as well as a plan to scale up climate finance beyond \$100 billion annually after 2020. The U.S. should also commit to targets to significantly increase public finance to meet the cost of mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage in developing countries, particularly for the most vulnerable communities and nation-states. This includes committing to mechanisms for raising new and additional resources such as a financial transaction tax (as France has committed to), halting subsidies for fossil fuel production immediately, and investing those public dollars in clean energy solutions that benefit communities on the ground.

You recently proclaimed that “America is now a global leader when it comes to taking action to fight climate change.” On behalf of the millions of Americans that our organizations represent, we urge you to bring reality to your rhetoric—and be the bold climate leader that both domestic and international communities need.

Respectfully submitted,

350 Bay Area

350 Santa Cruz

350Brooklyn
350NYC
100Grannies.org for a Fossil Fuel-Free Future
A Glimpse Of The Wild
ActionAid USA
Advocates for Snake Preservation
AFSCME Council 57
Allamakee County Protectors
Am Kolel Jewish Renewal Community
Amazon Watch
Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.
Arise for Social Justice
Association for the Tree of Life
Ballona Creek Renaissance
Battle Creek Alliance
Better Future Project
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
Boston chapter, Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL)
Breast Cancer Action
Breathe Easy Susquehanna County Pennsylvania
Bronx Climate Justice North
Catholic Rural Life
Catskill Mountainkeeper
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for International Environmental Law
Center for Social Inclusion
CEO Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Chico Peace and Justice Center
Christians Caring for Creation
Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community
Citizens for Global Solutions
Citizens for Sanity.Com, Inc.
Clean Air Council
Climate Action Alliance of the Valley
Climate Action NOW Western Massachusetts
Climate Change is Elementary
Climate First!
Climate Law & Policy Project
Climate Solutions
Co-op Power
Colorado Citizens Against Toxic Waste, Inc.
Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Corporate Accountability International
Don't Waste Arizona
Earth Day Network
Earth Law Center
earthling!
Earthworks
EcoEquity
Ecology Party of Florida
Elder Creek Ecological Preserve
Endangered Habitats League
Endangered Species Coalition
Energy Action Coalition
Environmental Action
Environmental Justice League of Rhode Island

Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
Fairmont, Minnesota Peace Group
Foundation Earth
Frac Sand Sentinel/Concerned Chippewa Citizens
Frack Action
Friends of Bell Smith Springs
Friends of Merrymeeting Bay
Friends of the Earth U.S.
Friends of the Pogonip
Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives
Global Exchange
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Great Old Broads for Wilderness-Phoenix
Broadband
Green America
Green Party of Pennsylvania
Green Peace Corps
Greenpeace USA
Holy Cross International Justice Office
Houston Peace News
Idle No More SF Bay
Institute for Policy Studies, Climate Policy Program
Public Citizen
InterAmerican Clean Energy Institute
Interfaith Moral Action on Climate
International Forum on Globalization
Justice Action Mobilization Network
Justice for Wolves
Kentucky Environmental Foundation

Kentucky Heartwood
Kentucky Sustainable Business Council
Kentucky Sustainable Energy Alliance
Klamath Forest Alliance
KyotoUSA
Labor Network for Sustainability
Local Clean Energy Alliance
Long Branch Environmental Education Center
Los Alamos Study Group
Mainstreet Moms
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
NC WARN
Neighbor to Neighbor - Massachusetts
neohasid.org
Ocean Conservation Research
Oregonians for Renewable Energy Progress
Organic Consumers Association
Other98
Our Health, Our Future, Our Longmont
Partnership for Policy Integrity
Peace and Freedom Party
Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Water and Air
People Demanding Action
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Portland Raging Grannies
Preserve Wild Santee
Pro Se
Progressive Democrats of America
Public Citizen

Rachel Carson Council
Rainforest Action Network
River Guardian Foundation
Safe Climate Campaign
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
San Juan Citizens Alliance
Save Our Sky Blue Waters
Seventh Principle Action Network of the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara
SignOn.Org
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership
Sisters of St. Joseph Earth Center
Sisters of the Holy Cross Congregation Justice Committee
Sisters of the Most Precious Blood
Sky Island Alliance
SLO 350
Social Justice Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
Springfield Climate Justice Coalition
Stop the Frack Attack Advisory Council
Sunflower Alliance
Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville
Sustainable Energy & Economy Network
SustainUS
Tar Sands Action Southern California
Texas Drought Project
The Clinch Coalition
The Cougar Fund
The Shalom Center
The Texas Drought Project
Tri-Valley CAREs (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment)
Tucson Climate Action Network
Turtle Island Restoration Network
U.S. Climate Plan
Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
Washington College of Law Environmental Law Society
Wild Equity Institute
WildEarth Guardians
Wolf Conservation Center
Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network, International WECAN
Xun Biosphere Project