

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