



May 3, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write as Governors of 12 states that are home to 107 million Americans and comprise approximately 38 percent of the nation's GDP, to urge you to keep the United States in the Paris Climate Agreement. Given the progress our states have made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, we are convinced that the United States' goal of 26-28 percent below 2005 levels is readily achievable. Maintaining the U.S. commitment is essential to protect our residents, and indeed, all Americans from the potentially catastrophic impacts of a changing climate.

We see our climate changing today through rising sea levels, increasing flooding, drought, and decreasing snow cover. These changes are causing forest fires and water shortages, adding to air pollution levels, and accelerating the spread of disease-carrying pests and causing illness and death from extreme weather patterns, amongst other impacts. Our states stand to bear the brunt of these climate change impacts and the economic costs running in the tens of billions of dollars or more.

We stand ready as state leaders to continue to support the achievement of the existing U.S. Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement—and if possible to go further, faster. The policies we are implementing that support the U.S.'s achievement of its Paris commitment not only cut carbon pollution—they also create jobs, boost competitiveness, and bring clean energy and a cleaner environment to our citizens. These benefits can and should accrue to all Americans.

Collective action to limit emissions world-wide is critical; without collaboration, climate change will cost the world's nations several trillion dollars in damages. Under the Paris Agreement, all the world's major economies are taking action on climate change for the first time, including China and India, which have put forward their own commitments to cut their carbon pollution domestically. If the U.S. does not maintain global climate leadership through national policies to

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reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to clean energy, China and India will. This would be a huge lost opportunity, putting us at a competitive disadvantage and potentially locking us into technologies and economic pathways that are increasingly obsolete while China and India reap the benefits of low-carbon leadership.

In each of our states, the path forward is clear. Our citizens demand the low-cost, clean-air benefits that a clean energy transition can provide. Our leading U.S. companies recognize the need to address business risks and opportunities through the Paris Agreement, and are wisely investing in low-carbon fuels and technologies to stay on the cutting edge of the global economy. Our track record—reducing carbon pollution while growing jobs and our economies—provides proof that we need not sacrifice opportunity for action. Indeed, we can secure that opportunity only by continuing to lead.

Sincerely,



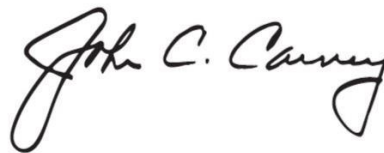
Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
State of California



Governor John Hickenlooper  
State of Colorado



Governor Dannel P. Malloy  
State of Connecticut



Governor John Carney  
State of Delaware



Governor David Y. Ige  
State of Hawaii



Governor Mark Dayton  
State of Minnesota



Governor Andrew M. Cuomo  
State of New York



Governor Kate Brown  
State of Oregon

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Governor Tom Wolf  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor Gina Raimondo  
State of Rhode Island



Governor Terence R. McAuliffe  
Commonwealth of Virginia



Governor Jay Inslee  
State of Washington

CC: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, U.S. Senate Majority Leader  
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, U.S. Senate Minority Leader  
The Honorable Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Leader, House of Representatives