

January 7, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Congratulations on your reelection.

Thank you for repeatedly raising the threat of climate change as you have outlined your priorities for your second term, starting with your Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> speech in Chicago. As you said during the campaign, “Climate change is not a hoax. More drought and floods and hurricanes and wildfires are not a joke. They’re a threat to our children’s future. And we can do something about it.”

We couldn’t agree more. Climate change threatens the health of our families, our communities and our planet. It is the great challenge of our time and our response will leave an historic legacy.

We urge you to continue underscoring the threat of climate change with the American people and to build on the historic vehicle standards and other progress you made during your first term by taking three decisive steps to curb dangerous carbon pollution:

1. Raise your voice. Elevate the issue of climate disruption and climate solutions in the public discourse. Connect the dots between carbon pollution and extreme weather, and lead the public discussion of what we need to do as a nation to both prepare for the changes in climate that are no longer avoidable and avoid changes in climate that are unacceptable.
2. Use your executive authority. You have the authority under existing law to achieve urgently needed reductions in the carbon pollution that is disrupting our climate and damaging our health. Most significantly, you can set standards that cut carbon pollution from America’s aging power plant fleet at least 25 percent by 2020 while boosting energy efficiency and shifting to clean energy sources. Power plants are our largest source of carbon pollution and you have the authority and responsibility to clean them up under the Clean Air Act. This will create tens of thousands of clean energy jobs, meet the pollution targets you set for the country, and restore U.S. international leadership.
3. Reject dirty fuels. We should not pursue dirty fuels like tar sands when climate science tells us that 80 percent of existing fossil fuel reserves need to be kept in the ground. More specifically, the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline is not in our national interest because it would unlock vast amounts of additional carbon that we can’t afford to burn, extend our dangerous addiction to fossil fuels, endanger health and safety, and put critical water resources at risk.

Hurricane Sandy made it tragically clear that many communities are extremely vulnerable to climate change. We can and we must build back better—with investment in sustainable infrastructure, not the kind of carbon-intensive development that helped drive this problem in the first place.

Cutting carbon pollution at home and rejecting dirty fuels will establish America’s leadership and credibility, enabling you to create clean energy jobs in the United States while forging an effective international coalition to cut global carbon pollution. We urge you to elevate climate solutions to the top tier of your domestic agenda and America’s bilateral and global diplomatic priorities.

We pledge to work with you every step of the way to secure a healthy future.

Mr. President, you have the power and the support you need to tackle the climate crisis. Your leadership can establish a new American legacy we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,

Bill McKibben	President	350.org
Mary Fifiield	Co-Chair	Amazon Partnerships Foundation
Scott Steen	CEO	American Forests
Wm. Robert Irvin	President	American Rivers
Mildred Real	CEO	American Verde
Patricia Dudley	President	Bethel Heights Vineyard
Angus Duncan	President	Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Mindy S. Lubber	President & CEO	Ceres
Robert Wendelgass	President	Clean Water Action
Ellen Ingmells	Co-Director	Climate Justice League
Gregg Small	Executive Director	Climate Solutions
Jamie Rappaport Clark	President & CEO	Defenders of Wildlife
Stuart Liebowitz	Convener	Douglas County Global Warming Coalition
Kathleen Rogers	President	Earth Day Network
Trip Van Noppen	President	Earthjustice
Tom Athanasiou	Executive Director	EcoEquity, USA
Maura Cowley	Executive Director	Energy Action Coalition
Margie Alt	Executive Director	Environment America
Carol Werner	Executive Director	Environmental & Energy Study Institute
Fred Krupp	President	Environmental Defense Fund
Michael Noble	Executive Director	Fresh Energy
Erich Pica	President	Friends of the Earth U.S.
Bob Dingethal	Executive Director	Gifford Pinchot Task Force
Mike Clark	Executive Director	Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Phil Radford	Executive Director	Greenpeace

Gary Cohen	Executive Director	Healthcare Without Harm
Kimberly Baker	Forest & Wildlife Advocate	Klamath Forest Alliance
Stephanie Tidwell	Executive Director	Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Tom Kelly	Director	KyotoUSA
Joe Uehlein	President	Labor Network for Sustainability
Gene Karpinski	President	League of Conservation Voters
Elisabeth MacNamara	President	League of Women Voters
Rob Garrity	Executive Director	Massachusetts Climate Action Network
David Yarnold	President & CEO	National Audubon Society
Ai-jen Poo	Director	National Domestic Workers Alliance
Thomas C. Kiernan	President	National Parks Conservation Association
Kesner Flores	Executive Director	National Tribal Environmental Council
Larry Schweiger	CEO	National Wildlife Federation
John Echohawk	Executive Director	Native American Rights Fund
Frances Beinecke	President	Natural Resources Defense Council
Sara Patton	Executive Director	Northwest Energy Coalition
Andrew Sharpless	Chief Executive Officer	Oceana
Steve Kretzmann	Executive Director	Oil Change International
Andrea Durbin	Executive Director	Oregon Environmental Council
Angus Duncan	Chair	Oregon Global Warming Commission
Kathleen Newman	Co-Chair	Oregonians for Renewable Energy Policy
George Jugovic Jr.	President & CEO	PennFuture
Catherine Thomasson, MD	Executive Director	Physicians for Social Responsibility
Tom Bowerman	Project Manager	PolicyInteractive
John Seager	President	Population Connection
Chris Steinkamp	Executive Director	Protect Our Winters
Sarah Egger	President	Puget Sound Students for a Sustainable Campus
Amanda Starbuck	Energy Finance Program Director	Rainforest Action Network
Dan Becker	Director	Safe Climate Campaign
Michael Brune	Executive Director	Sierra Club
Dr. Stephen A. Smith	Executive Director	Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Fahim Ferdous Promi	PR Agent	Take Back the Tap, Rutgers
Maggie L. Fox	President & CEO	The Climate Reality Project
Bob Doppelt	Executive Director	The Resource Innovation Group
Will Rogers	President & CEO	The Trust for Public Land
Jamie Williams	President	The Wilderness Society
Peter Bahouth	Executive Director	US Climate Action Network
Roberto Carmona	Advisory Board Member	Voces Verdes
Peggy Shepard	Executive Director	We Act for Environmental Justice

Patrick Sweeney	Director	Western Organization of Resource Councils
Ruth Musgrave	President	Wildlife Policy Consulting
Nicole Rom	Executive Director	Will Steger Foundation
Osprey Orielle Lake	Founder & President	Women's Earth & Climate Caucus
Cate Owren	Executive Director	Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO)
Daniel Cantor	Executive Director	Working Families Party