

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 9, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our concern and opposition to your dangerous decision to begin the process of formally withdrawing the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement. Failing to address the worsening crisis of climate change will wreak damages on all Americans for centuries into the future. When you first signaled your intent to withdraw the United States from this comprehensive agreement, you indicated that you would “immediately work with Democrats to either negotiate our way back into Paris, under the terms that are fair to the United States and its workers, or to negotiate a new deal.” We have yet to see any action to honor that commitment.

As the second largest global emitter of greenhouse gases, and the largest historical emitter, it is imperative that the United States assume our rightful place as a global leader in the fight to combat climate change, yet with this action you are ceding American leadership to other nations at great political and economic costs. There is an international race to develop advanced energy technologies. Instead of capitalizing on this economic opportunity, this action to no longer participate in the Paris Climate Agreement places U.S. companies at a competitive disadvantage and effectively offshores American jobs to China and other countries. Moreover, the blow dealt to our national security by surrendering technological prowess to other countries is matched only by the damage caused by abdicating our international commitments made under the Paris Climate Agreement.

The business community recognizes the missed opportunities resulting from your decision and understand the negative consequences associated with losing access to international clean energy markets. More than 2,200 American businesses and investors are committed to upholding the Paris Climate Agreement, and many American companies have urged you to remain committed to the Agreement such as Google, ConocoPhillips, National Grid, Levi Strauss & Co., Morgan Stanley and Unilever.^{1,2} American citizens want you to take strong action on climate change, with roughly 67% of the country agreeing it is the responsibility of the federal government to address the climate crisis, and 64% disapproving of your climate change policies.³ Three out of

¹ *Who's In, We Are Still In* (accessed November 22, 2019) <https://www.wearestillin.com/signatories>

² Veronika Bondarenko, *28 Major US Companies that don't want Trump to abandon the Paris agreement*, Business Insider (Jun. 1, 2017), <https://www.businessinsider.com/companies-dont-want-trump-cancel-paris-agreement-google-apple-exxon-2017-6>

³ Seth Borenstein, Nicholas Riccardi, and Hannah Fingerhut, *AP-NORC poll: 64% disapprove of Trump's climate change views*, AP News (Sept. 12, 2019), <https://apnews.com/82e8e6fd7b43436cbf5208ee1558d6b1>

four registered voters (77%) believe the United States should participate in the Paris Climate Agreement.⁴

This sentiment is also echoed by state and local governments. Since May 31, 2017, more than 400 United States mayors have adopted the Paris Agreement goals for their cities and 24 United States governors have formed a bipartisan coalition to realize the Paris Agreement goals at the State level.⁵ Furthermore, our national security experts frequently conclude that climate change is disrupting military readiness and exacerbating conflicts.⁶

As the 25th United Nations Climate Change conference is underway in Madrid, Spain this week, we urge you to consider the impact of this decision on the livelihood of Americans, the American economy and our national security as it will undoubtedly have long-lasting adverse effects on our way of life and America's position in the world.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator




Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator


⁴ [Anthony Leiserowitz](#), [Edward Maibach](#), [Connie Roser-Renouf](#), [Seth Rosenthal](#), [Matthew Cutler](#) and [John Kotcher](#), *Politics & Global Warming, March 2018*, Yale Program on Climate Change Communication (May 8, 2018), <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/politics-global-warming-march-2018/2/>

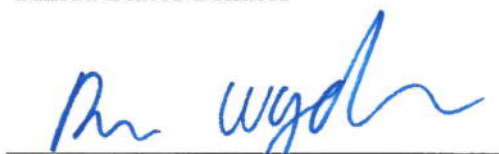
⁵ Richard Nunno, *Fact Sheet - The U.S. Climate Alliance and Related Actions*, Environmental and Energy Study Institute (Aug. 14, 2017), <https://www.eesi.org/papers/view/fact-sheet-the-u.s.-climate-alliance-and-related-actions>


⁶ United States Department of Defense, *Report on Effects of a Changing Climate to the Department of Defense* (Jan. 2019).



Jack Reed
United States Senator


Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator

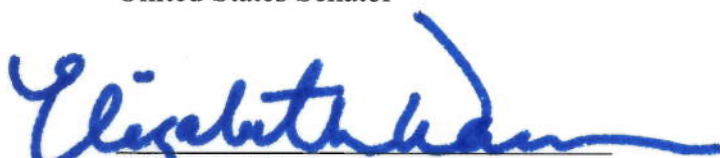

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator


Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

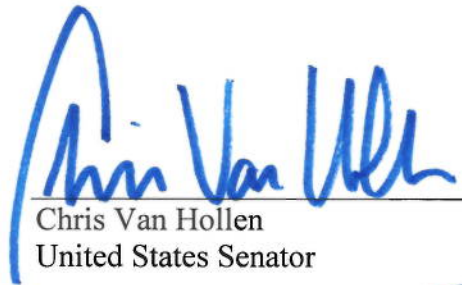

Patty Murray
United States Senator


Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator




Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



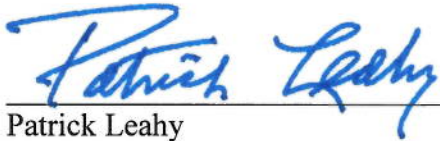
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator




Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator