



15 December 2016

Dear Mayors of Leading U.S. Cities:

We, as some of the Canadian, European, Latin American and Australian mayors of the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance, write this letter to express our strong support and solidarity with you as you work to aggressively fight climate change and improve the health and well-being of your communities and your local economies.

The recent U.S. election makes clear that you—America’s leading cities—are even more essential to accelerating climate action in the United States. Climate action cannot take a sabbatical and wait another four years or another election cycle for more aggressive action.

America’s president-elect has made it clear that he plans to eviscerate the country’s environmental protections, including plans to cut emissions at coal-fired power plants, one of the most egregious carbon footprints in one of the world’s largest greenhouse gas emitters. President-elect Trump has stated that in his first 100 days he will do everything he can to dramatically expand the production of shale, oil, natural gas and coal; lift roadblocks to fossil fuel pipeline expansion projects like Keystone Pipeline; and cancel billions in payments for climate change programs. His cabinet picks are reflective of this regressive commitment.

The international community gathered last month at COP 22 in Morocco to plan for low-emissions solutions and pathways. Countries like Canada, Germany, Mexico and others unveiled their plans to achieve the Paris Agreement in their countries, while president-elect Trump began unraveling the diplomatic thread that weaves together one of the most important international agreements ever.

We see climate change as a core issue of national interest, and a key driver of the march toward a cleaner and more equitable future. Clean energy employment grew 12 times faster than overall job creation in the U.S. in 2015, and this trend is growing. Business leaders understand this.

This is why you, the mayors of America’s leading cities, must continue to be at the forefront of climate action in the U.S. going forward. This is increasingly important as your new national leadership abdicates responsibility for protecting Americans and the world from fossil fuel impacts to our people’s health, our economies, and our environment.

Since cities are responsible for nearly three-quarters of the world’s total greenhouse gas emissions, and the majority of the world’s population lives in cities, cities are the right places to focus. You have already stepped up to demonstrate this leadership — your cities are already showing that you can accomplish what national leaders such as President-elect Trump refuse to touch. Leading cities, like the cities of the [Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance](#) are moving as fast as possible toward more livable, sustainable cities, irrespective of national government support or lack thereof.



Life gets better, cleaner, healthier, and more efficient as we embrace a clean energy future, work to eliminate dirty emissions, and put people — not fossil fuels — at the center of our economies. Making America great is about ensuring that its people are healthy and happy, its economies and environments are thriving, and its security is sound. We pledge to support you as you continue to do this.

We hope the Trump administration will support you, America's leading cities, in your efforts. However if they do not, we, as fellow leading climate action cities, will stand by you to help in whatever ways we can.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond Johansen".

Raymond Johansen, Governing Mayor of Oslo

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eduardo Paes".

Eduardo Paes, Mayor of Rio de Janeiro

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karin Wanngård".

Karin Wanngård, Mayor of Stockholm

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clover Moore".

Clover Moore, Lord Mayor of Sydney

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregor Robertson".

Gregor Robertson, Mayor of Vancouver