



June 6, 2016

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Prioritizing Climate Change During Discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council and our millions of members and activists, I would like to thank you for your leadership in deepening the U.S.-India relationship around climate change. You have made climate change a priority in your administration's discussions with Indian leaders and have solidified progress through the Paris Climate Agreement.

In your discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi this week, I urge you to seek agreement on real steps to implement the Paris Agreement. India, as the world's largest democracy and third largest carbon emitter, is an essential partner in the effort to combat climate change and accelerate low-carbon development. Specifically, work is needed in three priority areas:

1. Progress on climate-friendly cooling with a focus on amending the Montreal Protocol by October 2016.

To maximize the progress and goodwill that the U.S. and India have built toward phasing down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), the U.S. should commit with India to amend the Montreal Protocol by October 2016 – the date of the final Montreal Protocol meeting in 2016, nearly one year after the Paris Agreement. Now is the time to accelerate momentum and urge negotiators to be steadfast in working through final details, including assurances on the multilateral fund, technology-transfer, and accelerated timeframes that respect developed and developing country positions. In addition, strengthening U.S.-India programs on energy efficient cooling technologies is vital to progress on climate change.

2. Advance innovative financing solutions to reach clean energy targets by 2022. The U.S. and India should scale clean energy markets by creating a “clean energy finance hub.” Modeled after earlier programs, such as the U.S.-India Eco Program, the hub would leverage government funding to unleash private investment through innovative instruments such as green banks and green bonds. The goal should be to meet India's target of 100 gigawatts of solar energy by 2022, as well as wind and efficiency targets.

3. Strengthen knowledge-sharing on climate resilience and air quality. The U.S. should redouble efforts around climate resilience announced with India in 2014 by expanding knowledge-sharing programs that address extreme heat and air pollution to protect public health and combat global warming impacts. Strong on-the-ground resilience programs are critical to implementing the Paris Agreement.

Robust and immediate action that shows real commitment following the Paris Agreement is needed to combat climate change, foster sustainable economic growth, and encourage a stronger global response, with benefits not only for our two nations, but also for the world.

Sincerely,

Rhea Suh
President, Natural Resources Defense Council

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

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