

**Center for Biological Diversity * Earthjustice * Gasp
League of Conservation Voters * Natural Resources Defense Council
Public Citizen * Sierra Club**

April 11, 2018

Dear Senator,

The undersigned organizations are writing to express our strong opposition to the nomination of Mike Pompeo to become the next Secretary of State. As the top diplomat representing the United States in the international community, the Secretary of State is responsible for advancing U.S. strategic interests abroad which includes constructive engagement on global environmental issues. While serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, Mr. Pompeo demonstrated an extreme anti-environmental record, and for this reason we believe he would weaken U.S. State Department influence abroad and prevent himself from fulfilling his responsibilities as of Secretary of State.

The core mission of the U.S. State Department is to advance the interests, safety and prosperity of the American people by leading America's foreign policy through diplomacy, advocacy, and assistance. America's foreign policy requires balanced and tactful engagement on critical environmental issues including global health, biodiversity, energy development, and climate change — issues that deeply affect U.S. diplomatic relations and projection of power around the world.

Risk to Global Health

Healthy populations strengthen prosperity, stabilize nations, and enhance international security and trade, which helps ensure a safer, more resilient America. The Office of International Health and Biodefense (IHB) leads U.S. State Department's efforts on pandemic response and ensures that infectious disease, environmental health, global health security, and international health agreements are fully incorporated into our foreign policy interactions. As a Congressman, Mr. Pompeo consistently opposed efforts to address public health issues caused by harmful pesticides and water pollution. He voted to delay vital ozone and smog standards and sponsored legislation to weaken the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. Mr. Pompeo's lack of concern for the public health of his fellow citizens indicates that he would likely ignore global health priorities as Secretary of State.

Danger to Science and Biodiversity Conservation

Biodiversity is essential to the well-being of earth's social and economic systems. The Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) advances U.S. strategic interests through policy aimed at spurring economic development while simultaneously ensuring a healthy planet. OES is at the forefront of U.S. diplomatic efforts to confront some of world's greatest biodiversity challenges, which include illegal wildlife trafficking and overfishing, water security, polar-region cooperation, science and technology cooperation, nature conservation, and climate and space policy, among other vital topics. While serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Pompeo consistently voted in favor of policies that threaten

biodiversity, like weakening the Endangered Species Act and promoting harmful development in ecologically sensitive areas.

Favoritism in Energy Markets

The State Department's Bureau of Energy Resources (ENR) strengthens U.S. global energy security and prosperity. As a Congressman, Mr. Pompeo, voted to accelerate fossil energy projects while stifling policies that supported clean energy. His opposition to supporting renewable energy and indifference to oil and gas industry subsidies demonstrates a risky bias that runs against the State Department's mission to facilitate stable, open, fair, and competitive global energy markets which are critical to U.S. national security and market development for American firms.

Threat to Climate Science and Global Climate Leadership

Climate change affects global health, biodiversity, and international energy development, among many other issues that fall under the purview of the State Department. Accordingly, Mr. Pompeo's disbelief in climate science and vehement opposition to U.S. international engagement on climate issues is our greatest concern. The Office of Global Change (EGC) within OES at the State Department is responsible for crafting and implementing America's engagement in international policy on climate change, and representing the United States in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (U.N.F.C.C.C.). As a Congressman, Mr. Pompeo denied climate science and voted against policies to address climate change including the social cost of carbon and climate education. As a nominee to lead the Central Intelligence Agency, Mr. Pompeo reaffirmed his climate science denial publicly and rejected the link between climate change and national security. If confirmed, Mr. Pompeo would become the first U.S. Secretary of State to be an outright climate science denier; a dangerous conviction which could compel him to recklessly withdraw the U.S. from international climate agreements like the Paris Climate Accord. Such a move would shatter the power the United States has cultivated as a leader on this top-shelf diplomatic priority, and diminish America's strategic influence on climate change and other critical issues facing the international community.

Subversive to Trade and Nuclear Non-proliferation

In addition to compromising the State Department in the previous areas, Mr. Pompeo's loud dismissal of environmental issues and overt favoritism of narrow economic interests would limit our nation's ability to engage on other critical international issues including trade and nuclear proliferation. Environmental cooperation can be a first step toward dialogues or improving relations between the United States and other countries. Without such enabling cooperation, our country loses a degree of diplomatic leverage that weakens our standing in future negotiations for strong and enforceable trade and nuclear agreements.

Our next Secretary of State should use every tool available to advance U.S. interests abroad and ensure economic stability in strategically important regions around the world. Mr. Pompeo's staunch anti-environmental record and resolute denial of climate science indicates an ideological extremity that supersedes the diplomatic pragmatism required to maneuver the world's complex web of international relations. Historically, the United States has maintained a strong legacy of global leadership in addressing environmental issues, so our nation's top diplomat has an obligation to the American people to maintain that leadership and standing within the

international community. To step back from our leadership position now would weaken our nation's influence abroad and undermine the mission and efficacy of the U.S. State Department.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote against confirming Mr. Pompeo as Secretary of State.

Sincerely,

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