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. 7th 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 Fifield
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
Friends of the Earth U.S.

Erich Pica
President
Gifford Pinchot Task Force

Bob Dingethal
Executive Director
Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Mike Clark
Executive Director
Greenpeace

Phil Radford
Executive Director
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 Echowhawk, 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
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<tr>
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<td>Patrick Sweeney</td>
<td>Director</td>
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<td>Ruth Musgrave</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Wildlife Policy Consulting</td>
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<td>Nicole Rom</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Will Steger Foundation</td>
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<td>Osprey Orielle Lake</td>
<td>Founder &amp; President</td>
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<td>Cate Owren</td>
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<td>Women’s Environment &amp; Development Organization (WEDO)</td>
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<td>Daniel Cantor</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Working Families Party</td>
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