

March 22nd, 2017

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As progressive leaders from across the country, we recognize the urgent threat posed by the Trump administration's cynical denial of climate science. President Trump's attempts to rollback the landmark Clean Water Rule, and his promises to do the same with the Clean Power Plan--the core of President Obama's climate legacy--should raise alarm bells for anyone concerned with the pervasive and destabilizing impacts of climate change. The country is looking to New York to take on President Trump's destructively anti-science agenda by leading on climate action, creating good jobs, and investing in environmental justice communities.

As the Trump Administration and Congressional leaders threaten core environmental, health, civil rights, and labor standards, our communities are at risk, and New York's proud tradition of progressive leadership has never been more crucial. The state and local governments can protect all that we love and lay down the opposition blueprint for the rest of the nation. To do that, New York must be bolder, more ambitious, and more visionary than ever before. New York can and must forge the pathway to a healthier, more prosperous future safe from the devastating impacts of climate change, by cutting harmful greenhouse gas emissions, ramping up clean, renewable energy, investing in historically-disadvantaged communities and creating family-supporting jobs for a changing energy economy.

As you well know, climate change affects everyone, but its consequences are particularly devastating for low-income residents, communities of color, immigrants, and other vulnerable communities. Air pollution exacerbates chronic health conditions, triggering asthma attacks and other health problems, including heat exhaustion and heatstroke. And when a major storm hits, disadvantaged communities are often the first to be impacted and the last to see relief.

New York's reputation as a model of action was bolstered by your insistence that a \$15-per-hour minimum wage and paid family leave be enacted as part of the State's budget. In 2017, you can again take bold leadership by enacting the Climate and Community Protection Act (CCPA) through the budget process. Working in partnership with the state Legislature, local stakeholders, and other states, we urge you to enact strong climate programs that will reduce life-threatening pollution, protect frontline communities, and ensure a just transition to the new energy economy. Codifying these principles shields New York from the Trump administration's likely onslaught

on environmental regulation, and signals to the world that New Yorkers are strong, united, and determined in our fight against climate change.

We strongly and unequivocally support your commitment to cut climate pollution 100% by 2050. Let's make that happen!

There are no second chances when it comes to our climate. Together, it is within our grasp to power the entire economy of New York with clean, renewable energy. New York can chart a new course on climate action, placing equity and justice for workers and frontline communities at the core of its mission. President Trump will take us backward; we call on you to set an example for the nation and world by championing environmental and health protections in the 2017 budget. We look forward to working with you to make New York State the true climate leader this country urgently needs.

Sincerely,

Angela Adrar

Executive Director, Climate Justice Alliance

Jon Cavanagh

Director, Institute for Policy Studies

Page Atcheson

Executive Director, Our Climate

Blythe Danner

Actress

Lydia Avila

Executive Director, Power Shift Network

Congressman Keith Ellison

Aaron Bartley

Executive Director, PUSH Buffalo

Jodie Evans

Co-Founder, CodePink

Eddie Bautista

Executive Director, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance

Laura Flanders

Executive Producer, Laura Flanders Show

Michael Brune

Executive Director, Sierra Club

Josh Fox

Director, Gasland

Dan Cantor

National Director, Working Families Party

Anna Galland

Executive Director, MoveOn.org

Jihan Gearon

Executive Director, Black Mesa Water Coalition

Lois Gibbs

Founder, Center for Health, Environment & Justice

George Goehl

Co-Executive Director, People's Action

Karena Gore

Director, Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary

LeeAnn Hall

Co-Executive Director, People's Action

Larry Hanley

President, Amalgamated Transit Union

Tara Houska

National Campaign Director, Honor the Earth

Ben Jealous

Former President and CEO, NAACP

Brad Johnson

Executive Director, Climate Hawks Vote

Van Jones

Founder & President, The Dream Corps

Naomi Klein

Author, "This Changes Everything"

Winona LaDuke

Executive Director, Honor the Earth

Dr. Gabriela D. Lemus

President, Progressive Congress Action Fund

Annie Leonard

Executive Director, Greenpeace

Heather McGhee

President, Demos

Bill McKibben

Co-Founder, 350.org

Sen. Jeff Merkley

U.S. Senator, Oregon

Ai-Jen Poo

Director, National Domestic Workers Alliance

Robert Reich

Former U.S. Secretary of Labor

Rashad Robinson

Executive Director, Color of Change

Cameron Russell

Model, Writer, Activist

Professor Jeffrey Sachs

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Karen Scharff

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