



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

June 8, 2017

Governor Scott Walker
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker,

We, the undersigned state legislators, call on you to join the United States Climate Alliance and commit Wisconsin to developing and implementing a state-based plan to fight climate change.

Our state has a rich history of being a leader in conservation and innovative programs to ensure a healthy environment for our citizens. That leadership is more important now than ever before. President Trump's decision to abandon the United States' commitment to the world by withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement leaves our country dangerously isolated.

Understanding that the U.S. must continue to play a significant role in addressing climate change, state and local governments across our nation are pledging to honor the Paris accord and promising to continue taking the lead in mitigating climate change. Wisconsin should not fall behind the rest of the world due to an erratic and shortsighted decision by a President desperate to distract from the growing cloud of illegitimacy surrounding him.

The scientific evidence that human activity is significantly contributing to climate change is factual. President Trump's rejection of this truth slams the door on American ingenuity and stifles our ability to address this growing global crisis.

A Wisconsin state-based plan to fight climate change that includes a stronger commitment to developing and implementing renewable energy would be an economic infusion in our state and would signal to the world that we are ready to take on the economic opportunities of being a leading player in the effort to mitigate climate change. While our state is barren of fossil fuels, we have rich untapped renewable energy resources. A plan that invests in our energy independence keeps money in our state's economy.

As demonstrated by the support of 28 major United States corporations through a [letter](#) directed to President Trump, addressing climate change would have positive economic impacts by strengthening competitiveness, creating jobs, and reducing business risks. In fact, while coal jobs have seen a 26% decline in the last three years, solar jobs in the United States saw a 20% growth every year for the last four years. Wind energy has seen similar growth with a 20% increase in the last year. Capturing some of these jobs in Wisconsin would greatly benefit our workers, economy, and environment. Given the recent reports on Wisconsin's slump in job creation, we cannot afford to reject both the economic opportunity and moral obligation of taking a stand to address climate change.



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This drastic move will have devastating effects not only on our natural resources, but also on our ability to export to foreign markets. By pulling out of the agreement, the United States will no longer have a seat at the table on decisions about carbon pricing and taxes on U.S. exports. Additionally, Wisconsin owes a large part of its economy to the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes, which contribute to our trade surplus by moving well over half of the nation's exported corn, soy, and wheat. As such, it is in the state's and country's best interest to keep markets open to U.S. products and services.

It is time for Wisconsin to join a growing coalition of states and territories, including California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington that are committed to honoring the Paris accord. This growing coalition already represents 32% of our U.S. population.

As elected representatives of the people of Wisconsin, we hold a sacred commitment to our communities to find long-term solutions that will ensure the future health and prosperity of our people and planet. Therefore, we call upon you to join the bipartisan United States Climate Alliance and recommit our state to our tradition of conservation by developing and implementing a state-based plan to fight climate change.

Sincerely,

David Bowen
State Representative
10th Assembly District

Chris Larson
State Senator
7th Senate District

Jill Billings
State Representative
95th Assembly District

Jennifer Shilling
State Senator
32nd Senate District

David Crowley
State Representative
17th Assembly District

Dave Considine
State Representative
81st Assembly District

Lisa Subeck
State Representative
78th Assembly District

Christine Sinicki
State Representative
20th Assembly District

Tim Carpenter
State Senator
3rd Senate District



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P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dianne Hesselbein
 Dianne Hesselbein
 State Representative
 79th Assembly District

Eric Genrich
 Eric Genrich
 State Representative
 90th Assembly District

JoCasta Zamarripa
 JoCasta Zamarripa
 State Representative
 8th Assembly District

LaTonya Johnson
 LaTonya Johnson
 State Senator
 6th Senate District

Chris Taylor
 Chris Taylor
 State Representative
 76th Assembly District

Debra Kolste
 Deb Kolste
 State Representative
 44th Assembly District

Tod Ohnstad
 Tod Ohnstad
 State Representative
 65th Assembly District

Evan Goyke
 Evan Goyke
 State Representative
 18th Assembly District

Kathleen Vinehout
 Kathleen Vinehout
 State Senator
 31st Senate District

Nick Milroy
 Nick Milroy
 State Representative
 73rd Assembly District

Gary Hoel
 Gary Hoel
 State Representative
 46th Assembly District

Melissa Sargent
 Melissa Sargent
 State Representative
 48th Assembly District

Cory Mason
 Cory Mason
 State Representative
 60th Assembly District

Steve Doyle
 Steve Doyle
 State Representative
 94th Assembly District

Terese Berceau
 Terese Berceau
 State Representative
 77th Assembly District

Jon Erpenbach
 Jon Erpenbach
 State Senator
 27th Senate District

Fred Risser
 Fred Risser
 State Senator
 26th Senate District

Robert Wirch
 Robert Wirch
 State Senator
 22nd Senate District

Jason M. Fields
 Jason Fields
 State Representative
 11th Assembly District

Lena Taylor
 Lena Taylor
 State Senator
 4th Senate District

Mark Miller
 Mark Miller
 State Senator
 16th Senate District



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P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

Mark Spreitzer

Mark Spreitzer
State Representative
45th Assembly District

Jonathan Brostoff

Jonathan Brostoff
State Representative
19th Assembly District

Jimmy Anderson

Jimmy Anderson
State Representative
47th Assembly District

Gordon Hintz

Gordon Hintz
State Representative
54th Assembly District

Beth Meyers

Beth Meyers
State Representative
74th Assembly District

Sondy Pope

Sondy Pope
State Representative
80th Assembly District

Josh Zepnick

Josh Zepnick
State Representative
9th Assembly District

Don Vruwink

Don Vruwink
State Representative
43rd Assembly District

Katrina Shankland

Katrina Shankland
State Representative
71st Assembly District

Dana Wachs

Dana Wachs
State Representative
91st Assembly District

Daniel Riemer

Daniel Riemer
State Representative
7th Assembly District

Amanda Stuck

Amanda Stuck
State Representative
57th Assembly District

Fred Kessler

Fred Kessler
State Representative
12th Assembly District

Peter Barca

Peter Barca
State Representative
64th Assembly District

Leon Young
State Representative
16th Assembly District

Dave Hansen

Dave Hansen
State Senator
30th Senate District

Leon Young