



January 29, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

Congratulations on your re-election, and thank you for reaffirming your commitment to tackle the challenge of climate change. We appreciate that your administration has taken critical steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles and proposed cutting carbon pollution from new power plants, two important first steps towards setting the nation on the path to cut greenhouse gases.

As you said during the campaign, “Climate change is not a hoax. More droughts 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.”

As state legislators we agree. Climate change threatens the health of our families, our communities and the planet. Our response will be a lasting legacy that will measure our service in public office. We must act promptly.

We urge you to continue moving forward to reign in greenhouse gas emissions during your second term by building on the fuel efficiency standards and by finalizing the proposed rule to reduce carbon pollution from new power plants and proposing standards to address our nation’s aging power plants. Power plants are our nation’s largest source of carbon pollution and you have legal authority to clean them up under the Clean Air Act.

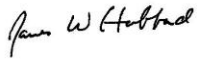
Super storm Sandy, and the other extreme weather events of the past twelve months, have made it tragically clear that many communities are vulnerable to climate change. We can and we must build back better – with investment in sustainable infrastructure. Investments in energy efficiency and renewable power can help mitigate the damage being done by a warming climate. Surely the “deniers” can be made to understand the enormous costs of inaction. The billions of dollars the public will invest in response to weather events cannot be tolerated from a budgetary perspective and this point needs to be driven home to those whose answer to climate change is to simply deny its existence.

While cutting carbon pollution at home will establish America's leadership and credibility, we can and must immediately address the short term greenhouse gas emissions like methane, smog, black carbon and others. Reducing these emissions is not only economically feasible but essential to near term results in attacking the cause of climate change. Taken together with your accomplishment in doubling the use of clean renewable energy, action on limiting climate pollution from power plants will demonstrate real leadership in forging an effective international coalition to cut global greenhouse gas pollution.

Mr. President, we know where the pollution is. Let's go get it. We urge you to finalize the carbon pollution standard for new power plants, move forward with a rule to reduce carbon pollution from existing power plants, and urge you to elevate climate solutions to the top tier of your domestic agenda.

With your leadership, we can establish a new American legacy that we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,



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Assistant Majority Leader
Chairman, NCEL Board of Directors

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Minority Leader and NCEL Board Of Directors

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Vice-Chair, House Local Government

Colorado State Representative Edward Vigil
Vice-Chair, House Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources Committee

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