

April 18, 2017

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

As you contemplate the United States' continued involvement in the Paris Climate Agreement, we would like to express our support for a complete withdrawal from the deal.

First and foremost, we applaud your leadership in stopping and rolling back several of the Obama administration's burdensome regulations that would have cost thousands of Americans their livelihoods and potentially destroyed fossil energy production in America. These regulations, such as the Stream Protection Rule (SPR) and Clean Power Plan (CPP), were key components of President Obama's "War on Coal." Our nation's involvement in the Paris Agreement is another extension of Obama's anti-coal agenda. Therefore, as you continue to roll back harmful domestic regulations, we want to urge you to reconsider America's participation in the Paris Agreement.

The agreement was designed to favor countries like China and India, two of the world's largest emitters of carbon dioxide, by giving them fewer immediate emissions reduction obligations while the United States front-loaded our costs at the detriment of the American worker. For example, the U.S. would have to take definite action and immediately reduce its carbon dioxide levels by 2025 resulting in serious harm to our economy, including job losses and increased energy and consumer costs. However, China would only promise to reduce its emissions starting in 2030. Frankly, it is hard to envision a nation, such as China, following through with that promise.

Moreover, President Obama and his administration used the Paris Agreement as justification for their anti-coal agenda and the CPP. In the courts, his administration and their supporters made claims that both the CPP and the Paris Agreement are critical to the public interest. We are concerned that remaining in the agreement will uphold those arguments and hinder the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) efforts to undo the CPP.

Also, on March 22, 2016, former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy admitted that the CPP would have no impact on the global climate and stated that the regulation was about showing "domestic leadership." But, we know that other nations are not following that lead or are willing to increase their energy prices and threaten their electric grid by reducing coal consumption. For example:

- China will increase coal consumption 70% by 2040 and projects that coal will remain 62% of their power generation going forward;
- India will double their coal output by 2020;
- Japan & South Korea plan to build 61 new coal plants in the next 10 years;
- Germany opened over 10 GW of new coal fired power plants the past 5 years.

The Paris Agreement also fails to adequately consider economies that would be negatively impacted by measures to respond to global warming. In particular, this agreement would significantly hinder our ability to bring electricity to the people of Africa.

Even with all of President Obama's climate regulations in place, nothing the United State does to decrease its emissions will have an impact on the global climate. According to a 2015 MIT Technology Review report, increased coal consumption in India will negate the efforts of both the U.S. and China. If all of the signers of the agreement actually fulfilled their commitments it would only reduce warming by 0.2 degrees Celsius by the year 2100 according to MIT's Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change projects.

We also firmly oppose any more taxpayer dollars going towards the Green Climate Fund, which is a slush fund created as a part of the agreement. President Obama agreed to help raise \$100 billion annually in funding for developing nations and personally committed \$3 billion from the United States to the fund. During his last year in office he gave \$500 million to the fund without approval from Congress. If we do not pull out of the agreement then billions more in taxpayer dollars will likely be wasted on a fruitless effort and our domestic energy production will continue to suffer.

Lastly, President Obama did not fulfill his obligation under the Constitution to seek consent of Congress when he signed the agreement in December 2015. The enormous obligations under the agreement it should have come before Congress for approval. The fact is that President Obama knew he didn't have the bipartisan support needed in order to have it approved by the Senate. Withdrawing from the deal allows you the opportunity to rectify this overreach.

On May 26, 2016, during a speech in which you stated your intentions to "cancel" the Paris Agreement, you summed this issue up perfectly by saying "this agreement gives foreign bureaucrats control over how much energy we use right here in America."

Again, thank you for your continued commitment to reduce burdensome regulations that have hindered American energy production and cost thousands of Americans their jobs. We understand this is a complex issue and appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,