**To:** Interested Parties

**From:**

**Date:**

**Re:** Coloradans Demand a Plan for Addressing Climate Change

From drought and extreme heat to flooding, hurricanes and sea level rise, communities in Colorado are feeling the impacts of climate change as a result of increased pollution. Republicans in Congress refuse to address this enormous challenge, despite the fact that a growing number of Americans are concerned with how climate change is impacting their health and communities and want the government to take action.

***The following information is provided to demonstrate how Coloradans are impacted by climate change and how their elected leaders are approaching the crisis. We encourage you to report on how Senator Gardner has refused to address the impact climate change is having in Colorado and is instead supporting coal lobbyist Andrew Wheeler to lead the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the agency charged with protecting public health and our environment.***

Support for climate action is growing, across all age groups, all religions, and all political persuasions. A [March poll](http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/politics-global-warming-march-2018/2/) from climate change researchers at Yale and George Mason Universities found 87 percent of Democrats and **56 percent of Republicans** support bold climate action. Similarly, a [November AP-University of Chicago poll](http://www.apnorc.org/projects/Documents/EPIC%20fact%20sheet_v4_DTP.pdf?wpisrc=nl_energy202&wpmm=1) found 86 percent of Democrats, 70 percent of independents and **52 percent of Republicans** believe that climate change is happening now; and of those who believe climate change is happening *83 percent say the federal government should take steps to address climate change*. What’s more, a [December 2018 Fox News Poll](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fox-news-poll-president-trump-ends-year-two-with-46-percent-job-approval) found that 64% of voters are concerned about climate change – up 7 points from January 2018 – **a boost mostly driven by a 13-point jump among Republicans.**

Coloradans are already seeing the impacts of climate change in their state. Since 2017, hail storms have cost taxpayers in the state [$5.5 billion](https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/events/US/1980-2018). On top of that, more than [100,000 people in Colorado](http://reportcard.statesatrisk.org/report-card/colorado/extreme_heat_grade) under the age of five and over the age of 65 and living in poverty are especially vulnerable to extreme heat. Without action, this situation will only become worse with heat wave days increasing in Colorado by 50 percent by 2050.

That’s why Coloradans know that we need to act on climate and are already implementing local clean energy solutions to reduce climate-changing carbon pollution and boost their economies. **[INSERT LOCAL SOLUTIONS DATA FOR COLORADO]**

Instead of taking cues from state and local leaders and putting forward a plan to reduce carbon pollution that’s contributing to climate change, Senator Gardner refuses to even acknowledge that climate change is a problem. Senator Gardner is supporting the nomination of former coal lobbyist Andrew Wheeler to lead the EPA after he’s spent his tenure as acting administrator attempting to dismantle lifesaving climate and health protections. Considering Senator Gardner has taken over 1.7 million dollars from the fossil fuel industry over the course of his career as an elected official, it’s not surprising he would support an industry insider to be the country’s chief public health official. Senator Gardner has made it clear he is more interested in making good on promises to polluter industry donors than to the needs of Coloradans.

By catering to polluters instead of Coloradan families, Senator Gardner is jeopardizing the state’s transition to a clean energy economy. Tackling the global climate crisis will create the 21st century jobs in communities across our country that fuel our economy. We already have created [3.2 million jobs](https://www.e2.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Clean-Jobs-America-2018.pdf) nationally as part of our transition to a clean energy economy and we can continue to build on that success, lifting up urban, suburban, and rural communities. But we need action from Congress to make sure Colorado isn’t left behind.

It’s the responsibility of elected officials to meet the demands of their constituents, not the demands of their campaign donors. We have the ability to solve the climate crisis if Republicans join the momentum created by state and local leaders in Colorado who are stepping up to meet the challenge of addressing climate change.

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