



**February 28, 2019**

**CONTACT:**

**Carly Coakley, [carly@blueenginemedias.com](mailto:carly@blueenginemedias.com)**

**202-827-9671**

**OVER 700 LEADERS DELIVER LETTER TO HOUSE SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI  
CALLING FOR URGENT CLIMATE ACTION**

*Local Elected Officials, Businesses, Faith Groups, Public Health Organizations, Tribal Leaders, and Environmental Groups Reaffirm Their Commitment to Meeting America's Pledge on Climate*

**(WASHINGTON, DC)** – Today, over 700 local mayors and other local elected officials, businesses, faith and religious institutions, public health organizations, medical professionals, and environmental organizations, including [Defend Our Future](#), issued a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi encouraging Congress to pursue an ambitious climate agenda in absence of federal leadership to date.

The letter is delivered on the same day that Congress is holding a hearing about subnational action to meet the Paris Agreement. Signers of the letter noted that, in the absence of federal leadership, local leaders are stepping up to meet America's pledge to act on climate. [3,600 leaders](#) from states, cities, businesses, faith communities, and healthcare, representing more than half of the U.S. economy and population, are working locally to adopt and meet targets for reducing the pollution driving climate change - cutting 500 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year by 2025 if targets are fully implemented.

It is signed by over 700 individuals and organizations from 45 states, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Notable organizations include:

- **Over 250 Businesses and Business Leaders – Including 6 Brewing Companies:** Such as Pivot Energy (CO), DSM (NJ), Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. (CA), New Belgium Brewing (CO), Stonyfield Farm (NH), and The Hartford (CT).
- **Nearly 30 Mayors and 53 other Local Officials:** Such as the mayors of Boulder (CO), Pittsburgh (PA), State College (PA), Belfast (ME), Eugene (OR), Portland (ME), and Anchorage (AK).

- **Nearly 40 Public Health Organizations and Medical Professionals:** Such as Health Care Without Harm, Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action, and Physicians for Social Responsibility – San Francisco.
- **Over 100 Faith Leaders, Organizations, and Religious Institutions:** Such as Interfaith Power & Light, Catholic Climate Covenant, Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, Franciscan Sisters of the Poor (OH), Church Women United in New York State, and Chestnut Hill United Church (PA).
- **Nearly 100 Environmental, Conservation, and Climate Advocacy Organizations:** Such as Defend Our Future, Sierra Club, Earthworks, The Wilderness Society, The Climate Reality Project, Defenders of Wildlife, Earthjustice, The Redford Center, Environment America, Natural Resources Defense Council, League of Conservation Voters, National Wildlife Federation, Clean Water Action, Environmental Law and Policy Center, National Parks Conservation Association, Hip Hop Caucus, NextGen America, Center for American Progress, Union of Concerned Scientists, and Moms Clean Air Force.

Reports released last year, including the Trump administration's own 4th National Climate Assessment (NCA) and the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, conclusively confirm the catastrophic impact climate change is already having on our health and our economy. As the NCA and other recent reports predict, the impacts of climate change will be even more catastrophic if we continue to ignore this imminent threat, according to the letter.

The letter encourages Congress to do its part to confront climate change with meaningful and ambitious action and comes amidst an explosion of federal policy proposals spanning a Green New Deal and Americans for Carbon Dividends plan.

"Pittsburgh is working to power our city with 100% renewable energy. Our city is taking climate action but every level of government needs to work on solutions. This includes Congress," said **Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto**. "Between 100% renewable energy, a national clean infrastructure and jobs program, and carbon pricing, there are a suite of options for Capitol Hill to consider."

As Congress weighs an array of policy solutions, governors in key states are implementing solutions on climate change and clean energy. "State leaders highlight that there is a way to find common ground on climate solutions and press forward on ambitious climate policies," said **Jonathan Soohoo with Defend Our Future**.

The U.S. Climate Alliance now includes 21 governors from both parties who are committed to meeting their states' commitments to Paris Agreement climate goals.

Hundreds of mayors in almost every state in the country are committing to and investing range of climate and clean energy policies.

Governors and mayors across the country have also committed to reducing tailpipe pollution from cars and trucks, the top source of climate pollution. That includes supporting current federal clean cars standards and investing billions to begin transitioning their vehicle fleets to electric vehicles, using their purchasing power to demonstrate to automakers that there is a strong market for zero-pollution vehicles.

“Millions of Americans across the country are grappling with the health impacts of dirty air. Cities like Belfast are working to reduce climate pollution, but we also need a federal solution,” said **Mayor Samantha Paladis of Belfast, Maine**.

“We call on Congress to heed the overwhelming global scientific consensus and take urgent, meaningful action to address the causes and impacts of climate change,” urged **Mayor Suzanne Jones of Boulder, CO**. “As leaders of cities across the country, we simply cannot afford inaction. We face expensive extreme weather events and deadly climate-driven natural disasters that are already costing our communities dearly.”

States, cities, businesses, and health care systems moving forward with clean energy solutions are already seeing the benefits. Since June 2017, the U.S. has added enough renewable energy to power more than 3 million homes for a year. States are implementing energy efficiency policies that could save consumers 7.3 percent on their electricity bills or \$16 billion per year by 2035.

This new Congress has a tremendous opportunity to protect our health and economy, and position America to again be a leader on the global stage, the letter says, building on calls for Congressional action from labor, environmental, and nonprofits across the country. Congressional leaders can create more equity, environmental justice and economic progress by investing in solutions that ensure communities bearing the brunt of pollution are gleaning the economic and public health benefits from a transition to clean energy.

###