

June 7, 2019

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
506 Hart Senate Office Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters across the country, we would like to thank you for introducing S. 1743, the International Climate Accountability Act, to ensure the U.S. meets its commitments under the Paris Agreement and to reinforce our national resolve to address climate change. As you know, the bill's House counterpart, H.R. 9, passed the House in May with Republican support and a unified Democratic caucus. We are pleased to offer our support for your efforts to pass a similar measure in the Senate.

The Paris Agreement is a global response to the greatest environmental challenge of our time. It includes, for the first time, specific commitments from all major countries and a pathway for each country to strengthen its own domestic climate actions in the years ahead. United States leadership and participation was crucial in bringing the world together to act. But now, by threatening to exit the agreement, the Trump administration risks isolating itself, undermining global climate action, and weakening America's international influence on a broad array of critical foreign policy issues.

Americans are experiencing climate change here and now in a rising tide of extreme weather disasters, from hurricanes in the southeast, to wildfires in the west, to flooding right now in the country's heartland. It's no surprise that polls consistently show that concern over the climate crisis is rising across generational, geographic, and partisan lines.

Americans' personal experience is underscored by a raft of new scientific reports. Last fall the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) confirmed that climate change is already happening, and ambitious action to curb carbon pollution is needed starting now to stave off steadily worsening impacts in the U.S. and across the globe. The last four years have been the hottest on record since global measurements began in 1880, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.¹ And the National Climate Assessment – prepared by 13 federal agencies and released by the Trump Administration last year – lays out the stark reality of current climate impacts in all regions of the nation and projects how much worse they could get.

Without significant global action, the National Climate Assessment concludes: "rising temperatures, sea level rise, and changes in extreme events are expected to increasingly disrupt and damage critical infrastructure and property, labor productivity, and the vitality of our communities."² "[C]oastal economies and property are already at risk," especially communities disproportionately comprised of

¹ [https://www.noaa.gov/news/2018-was-4th-hottest-year-on-record-for-globe;](https://www.noaa.gov/news/2018-was-4th-hottest-year-on-record-for-globe)
<https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/2018-fourth-warmest-year-in-continued-warming-trend-according-to-nasa-noaa>

² https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA4_2018_FullReport.pdf

low-income and minority Americans. In short, climate change is already here in America and it's already harming Americans' lives.

Despite these dire forecasts, we can still stave off the worst effects of climate change. Congressional leadership is more important than ever, and the International Climate Accountability Act will go a long way to ensure that the United States fulfills our commitments under the Paris Agreement and stays on the path to serious action on climate change.

This International Climate Accountability Act demonstrates leadership and vision needed to make the future climate safe for our children and grandchildren and honor America's commitments to help confront this global challenge. We appreciate your leadership on this issue, and we look forward to working with you as this legislation advances through the Senate.

Signed,

Alaska Wilderness Action
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Arizona Parks and Recreation Association
Blue Future
Bold Alliance
Chispa
Chispa Arizona
Citizens' Climate Lobby
Clean Water Action
Climate Hawks Vote
Climate Law & Policy Project
Climate Reality Project
Colorado Farm and Food Alliance
Conservation Colorado
Defend Our Future
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Elders Climate Action
Endangered Species Coalition
Environment America
Environment Arizona
Environment California
Environment Colorado
Environment Connecticut
Environment Florida
Environment Georgia
Environment Iowa
Environment Illinois
Environment Maine
Environment Massachusetts

Environment Michigan
Environment Minnesota
Environment Missouri
Environment Montana
Environment New Hampshire
Environment New Jersey
Environment New Mexico
Environment Nevada
Environment New York
Environment North Carolina
Environment Ohio
Environment Oregon
Environment Rhode Island
Environment Texas
Environment Virginia
Environment Washington
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Justice Center of Chestnut Hill United Church
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Friends of Ironwood Forest
Gasp
Green The Church
GreenLatinos
Hispanic Access Foundation
Hispanic Federation
Interfaith Power & Light
Kids Climate Action Network
League of Conservation Voters
League of Women Voters of the United States
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
NC League of Conservation Voters
Oxfam America
Partnership for Policy Integrity
PennEnvironment
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Public Citizen
Sierra Club
The Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah (HEAL Utah)
The Trust for Public Land
The Wilderness Society
Union of Concerned Scientists
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Voices for Progress
Wisconsin Environment
World Wildlife Fund