



National Wildlife Federation

National Advocacy Center

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November 21, 2017

Dear U.S. Governors and Mayors:

The National Wildlife Federation and the undersigned affiliated organizations, in the wake of recent devastating hurricanes and megafires and the Trump Administration's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and ongoing efforts to rollback sensible measures to reduce carbon pollution, respectfully urge you as state and local leaders to take action to ensure that America lives up to its commitment to reduce climate-altering pollution and protect communities and wildlife. Actions at the state and local level are our best current hope to ensure that America continues to lead the way in protecting wildlife and people from climate change. We thank you for the actions many of you have already taken to commit to this safer, more prosperous future. Your leadership at this critical time is invaluable, and has our deepest appreciation.

With six million members and supporters and independent state and territorial affiliate organizations from across the country, we represent hunters, anglers, farmers, forest managers, conservationists and other outdoor enthusiasts who believe our nation's wildlife, fish, healthy waters, clean air, and public lands are a birthright of all Americans. Climate change is not a partisan issue. It is a local, regional, national, and international problem, and it requires Americans coming together to solve it.

As the impacts of climate change worsen, our valuable natural resources are becoming degraded, along with our economic opportunities and outdoor traditions. Nowhere are these impacts felt more acutely than in our local communities, especially those reliant on natural resources. For instance, communities and states in the West are increasingly battling longer fire seasons and intense megafires, trout streams across the country continue to warm, stressing fish and reducing the number of days that streams and rivers can support fishing, coastal areas are facing the threats of sea-level rise and erosion, and severe weather events like unusually powerful hurricanes and unprecedented rains are costing states and localities billions of dollars.

These and other impacts are becoming daily realities for states, cities and towns that know everyone loses when we play politics with climate change instead of

investing in solutions. As such, the response of the American public to the administration's Paris Agreement withdrawal announcement and back-pedaling on action has been immediate and heartening. Americans overwhelmingly support climate action and the agreement, and more than 1,000 leaders of U.S. states, cities, businesses and universities have already signaled to the international community that they would seek to maintain the agreement's commitments. The scope of this commitment, called "We Are Still In" and containing more than 20 Fortune 500 companies including Wal*Mart, Amazon, Apple and Google, represents \$6.2 trillion of the U.S. economy. Fifteen states and territories, along with almost 400 mayors, have formed separate alliances with the purpose of still meeting the goals of the Paris agreement.

To have any hope of achieving climate stability and keeping America at the forefront of the booming renewable energy economy, we need to do everything we can in our states, cities, counties and towns to advance progress and spur American innovation. To those governors and mayors who are committed to reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement, we thank you for your leadership. To other governors and mayors, we call on you to join in making a commitment to ensure your state, city or town pledges to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. Like the One Federation we represent, together, we can build the thriving tomorrow our children, our planet and wildlife deserve.

Sincerely,

National Wildlife Federation
Association of Northwest Steelheaders
Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Delaware Nature Society
Environmental Advocates of New York
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Florida Wildlife Federation
Iowa Wildlife Federation
Kentucky Waterways Alliance
Montana Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Nebraska Wildlife Federation
New Mexico Wildlife Federation
Prairie Rivers Network
PennFuture
South Carolina Wildlife Federation
Vermont Natural Resources Council
Virgin Islands Conservation Society
Virginia Conservation Network
West Virginia Rivers Coalition