

## **POSSIBLE MOTION**

**I MOVE** to approve Mayor McConnell signing a coalition letter to President Barack Obama in support of continued climate action.

## Sara Peterson

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**From:** Mim McConnell (Assembly)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 20, 2015 10:26 AM  
**To:** Sara Peterson  
**Subject:** Fwd: Mayors Coalition Letter

Hi Sara,

I'd like to get the assembly's permission to sign this letter. This would be on Tuesday's agenda.

Thanks,

Mim

Mim McConnell, Mayor  
City and Borough of Sitka  
100 Lincoln Street  
Sitka, AK 99835  
907-747-2860 (p/f) 907-738-2888 (c)  
[www.cityofsitka.com](http://www.cityofsitka.com)<<http://www.cityofsitka.com/>>  
Coast Guard City, USA

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** "Emma Thornton" <[ethornton@environmentamerica.org](mailto:ethornton@environmentamerica.org)>  
**To:** "Mim McConnell" <[assemblymccconnell@cityofsitka.com](mailto:assemblymccconnell@cityofsitka.com)>  
**Subject:** Mayors Coalition Letter  
**Date:** Tue, Oct 20, 2015 12:57 PM

Mayor McConnell,

It was great to speak with you today! Thank you for your consideration of signing onto the coalition letter. I understand that it's a lengthy process to gain the support of the assembly in making big decision such as this. I'm looking into extending the deadline for you so the city has sufficient time to review the details and come to a conclusion. In the meantime, I just wanted to send you more information (and a copy of my original email) regarding the letter so the board knows more about the proposal.

Just as an overview, The Clean Power Plan was just finalized, and we need the federal government to provide a path forward to making meaningful reductions in carbon pollution while preparing for the impacts of climate change. As you know, the effects of global warming are seen especially in Alaska in the form of receding glaciers, eroded shorelines, and rising seas. We'd like to make sure that President Obama stands strong for global climate action at the UN's Climate Talks in Paris later this year. That's why Mayor Eric Garcetti of LA has started reaching out to mayors around the country to sign onto his Climate Action agenda.

We're asking mayors to sign onto this letter we've organized with Mayor Garcetti to encourage the President to take strong action in Paris.

Please let me know if you or any other members have any questions!

Again, thank you for your consideration,

Emma

Hi Mayor McConnell,

From wildfires on the west coast or superstorms in the east, across the country the growing impact of unchecked global warming is clear. And as mayor you're on the frontline of climate change—both the impacts and the solutions.

Luckily in August, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized the Clean Power Plan, a national action to cut carbon pollution from power plants. This is a major step forward to combat climate change. When the U.S goes to the Paris Climate Conference in December, our representatives will need the support for continued climate action.

We're working to get mayors to sign onto [a letter](#) in support of climate action. Will you be willing to add your name to this letter?

Thanks for all that you do!

Emma Thornton  
Environment America  
[ethornton@environmentamerica.org](mailto:ethornton@environmentamerica.org)

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September XX, 2015  
President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Mayors of 2X cities representing 20 million Americans, we write to thank you for your leadership on climate mitigation and resilience. As you said in your State of the Union speech, "No challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change."

We are writing to call on you to act in the best interests of the American people and fight for the strongest possible climate agreement at the upcoming 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris, and for federal action to establish binding national greenhouse gas emissions reductions here at home. The United States can and should be the leader in the transition to a clean energy economy, and we applaud the Clean Power Plan as an important step toward that end.

To support your leadership and assist you and the U.S. delegation in reaching the strongest possible agreement, we have launched a campaign to engage with our constituents, elected officials and other stakeholders to help achieve these strong outcomes at the national and international levels, while building on municipal leadership on climate change.

As Mayors, we understand that we are stronger working together. That is why we came together around the U.S.-focused Mayors National Climate Action Agenda (MNCAA) to help lead the way to a solution to global climate change. A changing and variable climate has tremendous implications for the livability, competitiveness and resilience of communities across the country. The extreme weather events we have all increasingly experienced in recent years and the future projections we face make it clear that we all share a common risk and commitment to safeguarding our communities.

The MNCAA is a mayor-to-mayor initiative to raise the collective voice of leading mayors, demonstrate the essential role of cities in working towards climate solutions, and build political will for U.S. leadership. This initiative, established by the Mayors of Houston, Los Angeles and Philadelphia, includes the undersigned, and will continue to grow.

The negotiations in Paris will be as challenging as they are critical to our cities' environmental health and economic prosperity.

Cities across the country are already taking the lead. The cities we represent are working to take responsible steps to curb emissions and plan for the changing climate. Many of our cities have reached Kyoto commitments far ahead of states and the national government, and cities across the country are committing to binding targets, creating standardized inventories and climate action plans and laying the ground work for a municipal offset protocol. But we cannot act alone. We need the federal government to provide a path forward to making meaningful reductions in carbon pollution while preparing for the impacts of climate change.

Despite the dangerous and irresponsible stalemate in Congress, climate change is not a policy debate in communities all across the United States. The effects of a changing climate are presenting a clear and present threat. Extreme weather is presenting itself more regularly, though it takes many forms—from droughts in the west, wildfires in the intermountain states, to flooding and snow storms in the east and coastal erosion in the Gulf states.

Around the world, over 150 mayors have signed on to the Compact of Mayors, bringing together an international effort pushing similar goals across the globe. Momentum is building for international coordination, as exemplified by the recent signing of the U.S.-China Climate Leaders Declaration by XX subnational leaders representing XX cities, states and

provinces. COP21 represents a prime opportunity for American leadership on a global scale. We recognize that local governments have a major role to play in reducing greenhouse gas levels, including ambitious implementation of the Clean Power Plan. We are encouraged that there is interest on the part of COP 21 for having language in the final agreement that specifically pertains to cities.

The time for strong U.S. action is now. We look forward to standing with you here at home and in Paris to bring leadership and focus to the reality of climate change and to urge national dialogue and action.

Sincerely,

**YOUR NAME**  
**CITY, STATE**