

May 31, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Rex Tillerson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

### **Support the International Paris Agreement**

Dear President Trump, Secretary Tillerson, and Administrator Pruitt:

National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and the undersigned affiliated organizations including NWF's Climate and Energy Caucus respectfully urge you to affirm that the United States will remain a constructive party to the Paris Agreement on climate change and set policies to faithfully implement our commitment under the agreement to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2025, while ensuring the necessary financial and technical support are provided to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. With six million members and 51 independent state and territorial affiliate organizations, 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 presents one of the most significant threats to wildlife, habitat, and the economies that rely on healthy natural resources. If cooperative international action is not taken to reduce carbon emissions at the pace and scale needed, wildlife will suffer greatly from severe droughts, flooding, loss and shifting of habitat and migratory corridors, sea level rise, ocean acidification, loss of snowpack, increased wildfires, and other severe impacts. The result will be the loss and diminishment of wildlife such as trout in our streams and moose in our northern forests. Addressing this issue is urgent. Science is clear that we have a limited window to reduce emissions before impacts become severe.

Sportswomen and sportsmen, birders and hikers, and the hundreds of local business owners who have built their livelihoods around the outdoors have a vested interest in ensuring our natural resources are properly managed and conserved. The threat of climate change is one of the most complex and daunting challenges the international community has ever faced, and it has taken decades of effort from around the world to achieve consensus and reach this first comprehensive agreement to limit global carbon pollution.

The United States has been a leader in the international negotiations and the resulting breakthrough agreement, which includes over 190 countries and all major emitters – all of whom are committing to reduce emissions. Taking a step back while momentum is building would hurt our country, reducing our credibility with other world leaders and compromising our ability to participate in the booming global clean energy economy.

For diplomatic, environmental, and economic reasons, the U.S. must remain a signatory to the agreement. The United States has the potential to be a world leader on climate action by embracing renewable energy, pursuing climate adaptation, and ensuring that our wildlife and communities are resilient in the face of this challenge. Altogether, 71 percent of Americans say the United States should remain a party to the agreement (Chicago Council on Global Affairs 2016).

Maintaining our commitments is also important for our fast growing outdoor economy. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, the outdoor recreation industry contributes \$887 billion to our national economy annually, creates 7.6 million direct jobs, and generates \$124.5 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenue. We must work to safeguard the important natural resources that support outdoor recreation – and the economic activity the sector creates – from climate change impacts.

Additionally, living up to our commitments under the Paris Agreement will help to ensure our competitiveness in producing renewable energy. Worldwide, nearly ten million people are employed by the renewable energy sector. This number is up from five million in 2012, and is projected to grow to as much as 24 million by 2030. Today, the United States ranks third, behind China and Brazil, with nearly 777,000 employed by renewables. If the U.S leaves the Paris Agreement, we risk being left behind as the rest of the world embraces this rapidly growing source of economic growth. Approximately 86 percent of Americans support speeding up the development and use of clean energy in the United States (Public Opinion Strategies 2016).

As the impacts of climate change become more apparent and costly, America must step up, not step back. So that future generations can enjoy the same robust natural resources we treasure, we urge this administration to protect our wildlife, communities, and economic future by remaining in the Paris Agreement and honoring America's commitments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

National Wildlife Federation  
Arizona Wildlife Federation  
Arkansas Wildlife Federation  
Association of Northwest Steelheaders (Oregon)  
Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future  
Conservation Council for Hawai'i  
Conservation Federation of Missouri  
Conservation Northwest (Washington)  
Environmental Advocates of New York  
Environment Council of Rhode Island  
Environmental League of Massachusetts  
Florida Wildlife Federation  
Iowa Wildlife Federation  
Kansas Wildlife Federation  
Kentucky Waterways Alliance  
Montana Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Council of Maine  
North Dakota Wildlife Federation  
Planning and Conservation League (California)  
Prairie Rivers Network (Illinois)  
South Carolina Wildlife Federation  
South Dakota Wildlife Federation  
Vermont Natural Resources Council  
Virgin Islands Conservation Society  
West Virginia Rivers Coalition