

To Our Members of Congress:

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing the United States and the world today. The only way to protect human society and life on our planet from its worst impacts will be immediate strong action by all countries--but particularly, strong and ambitious leadership by the United States. This week President Obama will join at least 80 other world leaders in Paris in an effort to reach a global agreement to respond to the growing threat of climate change and we extend our full support for the success of this effort.

Strong US leadership is important to the Latino community because people of color and low income communities are among the most vulnerable to climate change. The states that are feeling the most severe impacts are home to the largest Latino populations in the country. Meanwhile, our ancestral home, Latin America, is one of the regions in the world most affected by climate change. The stresses of climate disruption are putting further pressure on communities that are weighed down by lack of resources, infrastructure and economic opportunity here in the US and abroad.

To reach an agreement, the world needs to know that the US will act at home to cut carbon pollution and also help developing countries do the same. To this end, President Obama has announced significant commitments, including the Clean Power Plan rules, to cut our domestic emissions while making a down payment on our fair contribution to the Green Climate Fund. We support these efforts.

The Latino community wants strong action on climate change: a recent national poll of Latino voters showed 78 percent of Latinos say they have directly experienced the effects of climate change and 74 percent said it was extremely or very important for the US government to set national standards to prevent global warming and climate change.

As leaders in our communities, we ask our members of Congress to support US efforts to deliver a strong agreement in Paris that will ultimately benefit our communities and help ensure a safe and clean environment for our children for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Hector Sanchez, Executive Director, Labor Council for Latin American Development (LCLAA)

Elianne Ramos, Principal, Speak Hispanic Communications

Dolores Huerta, Founder and President, Dolores Huerta Foundation

Cristobal Alex, President, Latino Victory Project

Maria Teresa Kumar, President and CEO, VotoLatino

Brent Wilkes, National Executive Director, League of United Latin American Citizens

Ben Monterroso, Executive Director, Mi Familia Vota

Oscar Chacon, Executive Director, Alianza Americas (formerly NALACC)

Jose Calderón, President, Hispanic Federation

Antonio Flores, Ph.D., President and CEO, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)

Maite Arce, President and CEO, Hispanic Access Federation

Favianna Rodriguez, and Oscar Chacon, interim co-directors, Presente.org

Maria Cardona, Principal, Dewey Square Group

Elena Rios, M.D., M.S.P.H, President and CEO, National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)

Hon. Alfonso Lopez, Member of the Virginia House of Delegates

Mary Casillas Salas, Mayor, City of Chula Vista

Theresa Cardenas, Climate & Energy Consultant to the Union of Concerned Scientists

Adrianna Quintero, Founder and Executive Director, Voces Verdes and Director of Latino Advocacy, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Alejandra Goyenechea, Senior International Counsel, Defenders of Wildlife

Ruben Arvizu, Director for Latin America, Ocean Futures

Irene Vilar, Founder and Executive Director, Americas for Conservation + the Arts

Karina Castillo, Florida Latino Outreach Organizer, Moms Clean Air Force

Marce Gutiérrez-Graudiņš, Founder / Executive Director, Azul

Chris Espinosa, Legislative Representative, EarthJustice

Vanessa Cardenas, Director, Climatico, World Wildlife Fund

Mark Magaña, Founding President and CEO, GreenLatinos