



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

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June 8, 2017

Governor Scott Walker  
115 East State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker,

We, the undersigned state legislators, call on you to join the United States Climate Alliance and commit Wisconsin to developing and implementing a state-based plan to fight climate change.

Our state has a rich history of being a leader in conservation and innovative programs to ensure a healthy environment for our citizens. That leadership is more important now than ever before. President Trump's decision to abandon the United States' commitment to the world by withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement leaves our country dangerously isolated.

Understanding that the U.S. must continue to play a significant role in addressing climate change, state and local governments across our nation are pledging to honor the Paris accord and promising to continue taking the lead in mitigating climate change. Wisconsin should not fall behind the rest of the world due to an erratic and shortsighted decision by a President desperate to distract from the growing cloud of illegitimacy surrounding him.

The scientific evidence that human activity is significantly contributing to climate change is factual. President Trump's rejection of this truth slams the door on American ingenuity and stifles our ability to address this growing global crisis.

A Wisconsin state-based plan to fight climate change that includes a stronger commitment to developing and implementing renewable energy would be an economic infusion in our state and would signal to the world that we are ready to take on the economic opportunities of being a leading player in the effort to mitigate climate change. While our state is barren of fossil fuels, we have rich untapped renewable energy resources. A plan that invests in our energy independence keeps money in our state's economy.

As demonstrated by the support of 28 major United States corporations through a [letter](#) directed to President Trump, addressing climate change would have positive economic impacts by strengthening competitiveness, creating jobs, and reducing business risks. In fact, while coal jobs have seen a 26% decline in the last three years, solar jobs in the United States saw a 20% growth every year for the last four years. Wind energy has seen similar growth with a 20% increase in the last year. Capturing some of these jobs in Wisconsin would greatly benefit our workers, economy, and environment. Given the recent reports on Wisconsin's slump in job creation, we cannot afford to reject both the economic opportunity and moral obligation of taking a stand to address climate change.



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This drastic move will have devastating effects not only on our natural resources, but also on our ability to export to foreign markets. By pulling out of the agreement, the United States will no longer have a seat at the table on decisions about carbon pricing and taxes on U.S. exports. Additionally, Wisconsin owes a large part of its economy to the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes, which contribute to our trade surplus by moving well over half of the nation's exported corn, soy, and wheat. As such, it is in the state's and country's best interest to keep markets open to U.S. products and services.

It is time for Wisconsin to join a growing coalition of states and territories, including California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington that are committed to honoring the Paris accord. This growing coalition already represents 32% of our U.S. population.

As elected representatives of the people of Wisconsin, we hold a sacred commitment to our communities to find long-term solutions that will ensure the future health and prosperity of our people and planet. Therefore, we call upon you to join the bipartisan United States Climate Alliance and recommit our state to our tradition of conservation by developing and implementing a state-based plan to fight climate change.

Sincerely,

David Bowen  
State Representative  
10<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Chris Larson  
State Senator  
7<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Jill Billings  
State Representative  
95<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Jennifer Shilling  
State Senator  
32<sup>nd</sup> Senate District

David Crowley  
State Representative  
17<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Dave Considine  
State Representative  
81<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

Lisa Subeck  
State Representative  
78<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Christine Sinicki  
State Representative  
20<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Tim Carpenter  
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*Chris Taylor*  
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 State Representative  
 76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Debra Kolste*  
 Deb Kolste  
 State Representative  
 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Tod Ohnstad*  
 Tod Ohnstad  
 State Representative  
 65<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

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 State Representative  
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 Kathleen Vinehout  
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 48<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Cory Mason*  
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 State Representative  
 60<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

*Steve Doyle*  
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 State Representative  
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 State Senator  
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*Fred Risser*  
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 26<sup>th</sup> Senate District

*Robert Wirch*  
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 State Senator  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Senate District

*Jason M. Fields*  
 Jason Fields  
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