

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

April 8, 2021

Dear President Biden:

We, the undersigned higher education institutions, applaud your administration's demonstrated commitment to address climate change. We support your re-entry of the United States into the Paris Agreement, and for making climate action a central pillar of our federal government's activity.

As institutions that are educating the next generation of our country's leadership, we care deeply about the future of the United States and the health of its people and economy. Many of our colleges and universities are the largest employers in our cities and towns, and play a key role in the long-term viability of our communities.

Given the central role higher education plays in society, we affirm that solving global challenges, like the challenges posed by global climate change, is a key part of our educational missions. Through our curriculum, research, and operations, we will continue to be engines of innovation driving climate solutions in this country, and around the world, in the years ahead.

We know that we need to address the climate crisis at the pace and scale it demands. Climate science, much of which is generated at our institutions, tells us that the United States must adopt an emissions reduction target that will place the country on a credible pathway to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

We, therefore, call on the administration to adopt the ambitious and attainable target of cutting our nation's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% below 2005 levels by 2030.

Many of us have set our own institutional emissions reduction goals in line with the Paris Agreement. In some cases, we have been even more ambitious and have already achieved carbon neutrality. As you raise the bar for our national target, we will continue to ramp up our activities to move the United States forward on this journey. While implementing an effective national climate strategy will require everyone's effort, your leadership will provide us a north star with a bold 2030 target.

As both sector actors and enablers of action across other sectors in the economy, our higher education institutions are well-positioned to continue accelerating the nation's climate progress with your strong national leadership.

Sincerely,

Agnes Scott College
Allegheny College
American University
Antioch University
Appalachian State University
Arizona State University
Bard College
Bowie State University
Bunker Hill Community College

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
California State University, Long Beach
California State University, Monterey Bay
California State University, Northridge
California State University, Sacramento
Centre College
Chatham University
Clarkson University
Colby-Sawyer College

College of the Atlantic
Concordia College
Delta College
Dickinson College
Drake University
Eastern Connecticut State University
Florida A&M University
Fordham University
Framingham State University
Frostburg State University
Goddard College
Goucher College
Haverford College
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Ithaca College
Lane Community College
Lewis & Clark College
Little Priest Tribal College
Loyola University Chicago
Luther College
Maharishi International University
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
Menlo College
Mills College
Oakton Community College
Portland Community College
Portland State University
Randolph College
Rider University

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Saint Joseph's College of Maine
Saint Peter's University
Scripps College
Seattle University
Southern Connecticut State University
SUNY Orange County Community College
Truckee Meadows Community College
University of Arkansas
University of California, Davis
University of California, Riverside
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Denver
University of Lynchburg
University of Maryland Center for Environmental
Science
University of Minnesota Crookston
University of Minnesota Duluth
University of Minnesota Morris
University of Minnesota Rochester
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
University of New Hampshire
University of San Francisco
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point
Virginia Wesleyan University
Weber State University
Wells College
Wheaton College (MA)