Thanksgiving week, President-elect Joseph R. Biden, Jr. announced that former Secretary of State John Kerry would be appointed to a newly created cabinet position - Special Presidential Envoy for Climate - focused on re-establishing the United States' global role in helping to combat climate change.

We are thrilled with this appointment and that the Biden-Harris Administration is placing such emphasis on climate.

Over the previous four years, the Trump Administration has significantly reduced the climate role of the U.S., and has also rolled back an unprecedented number of climate accomplishments the nation has achieved.

The Biden-Harris campaign made a strong commitment to ensuring that climate change would be one of the top issues they would focus on if elected. With the appointment of Secretary Kerry to manage and implement such climate action, it is evident that the Biden-Harris Administration plans to follow through on that campaign commitment.

Former Secretary of State John Kerry is the right person for the job.

As both a U.S. Senator and then as Secretary of State for the Obama-Biden Administration, Secretary Kerry not only understood the importance of taking on climate change, he actually did the work to do so. For example, in 1992, he served as part of the U.S. delegation at the Rio Earth Summit. As Secretary of State in 2015, Secretary Kerry was a critical part of the Paris Agreement negotiations.

We know that Secretary Kerry also understands the important leadership role the higher education sector has when it comes to working toward climate solutions. Many of you may not know, but in 1993, Secretary Kerry, along with Teresa Heinz, and Tony Cortese, founded Second Nature! As recently as July of this year, Secretary Kerry was a panelist for a webcast we hosted about COVID-19, climate, and higher education's role in helping to solve global climate challenges.

As all of us know, climate action takes all of us, and there is much work to be done. And the urgency to do that work is now. So while we take a brief moment to celebrate the appointment of former Secretary of State John Kerry as Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, we are most excited to continue the work we are doing with your campuses, and look forward to working with the incoming Administration as the United States recommits to climate leadership both domestically and internationally.

- Your Second Nature Team