



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Charlie Hales, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Steve Novick, Commissioner

March 16, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

Majority Leader McConnell and Speaker Ryan,

The City of Portland supports strong federal legislation to address the urgency of climate change. Each day brings further scientific evidence that the impacts of climate change are accelerating, and the window of opportunity to avoid irreversible global impacts is quickly closing. We urge Congress to enact a carbon price to create a level playing field across industries and unleash the power of market forces to find the most cost-effective ways to reduce emissions. Pricing carbon also provides clear direction to businesses, which currently face considerable uncertainty around carbon, delaying key investments. The City of Portland supports a range of carbon pricing policy proposals, including a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend, a carbon tax, or a well-designed cap and trade system.

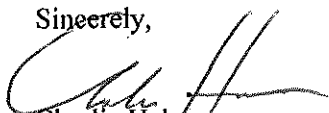
The City of Portland created the nation's first Climate Action Plan in 1993 to reduce carbon emissions in its own operations and throughout the community. These efforts have resulted in a decrease in local carbon emissions of more than 35 percent per person since 1990. Even while adding more than 150,000 residents and 60,000 jobs, total county-wide emissions are 14 percent below 1990 levels, sharply countering the national trend.

Efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions have also proven to strengthen our economy and community. Improved efficiencies make our companies more competitive, and increased investment in transportation options has reduced fossil fuel use, providing for clean air improvements in public health. Furthermore, as the world mobilizes to reduce emissions, American firms that have developed technologies and expertise to achieve reductions will be positioned to benefit.

Oregon is one of 34 states with climate change plans, and Portland is one of more than 1,000 local governments in the U.S. actively working to reduce carbon emissions. Portland and these many state and local counterparts are committed to pursuing effective, efficient, and equitable opportunities to reduce carbon emissions, but local and state governments urgently need a strong federal partner and clear, consistent market signals to reduce carbon.

We urge Congress to act decisively to put a price on carbon.

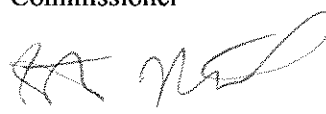
Sincerely,


Charlie Hales
Mayor


Amanda Fritz
Commissioner


Nick Fish
Commissioner


Dan Saltzman
Commissioner


Steve Novick
Commissioner