

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,  
And Related Programs  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Leahy:

We are writing to request that the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Subcommittee continue funding United States' foreign assistance programs that strengthen U.S alliances and prevent instability overseas by helping developing countries address climate change and combat tropical deforestation.

We urge the Subcommittee to provide appropriations for the following programs:

- \$500 million for the State Department and \$250 million for the Treasury Department to make a total contribution of \$750 million to the Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- \$17 million to maintain the U.S.'s financial commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- \$140 million for international Sustainable Landscapes under Bilateral Economic Assistance
- \$180 million for Clean Energy programs under Bilateral Economic Assistance
- \$180 million for Adaptation programs under Bilateral Economic Assistance

We believe that U.S. leadership and support is critical to mitigate future humanitarian, natural resource and economic crises. These foreign assistance programs help vulnerable populations around the world become more climate change resilient. These programs also help developing countries make smart and sustainable energy decisions that reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and improve the stability of at-risk developing countries through improved energy security. Making the world safer in the face of a changing global climate makes America safer.

Specifically, fulfilling the United States' outstanding four-year funding commitment to the Green Climate Fund would send a critically important signal of faith to our international partners that will foster trust and cooperation among our international partners that transcends international climate change efforts. Projects funded by the Green Climate Fund have leveraged significant private capital. In July 2016, the Committee passed an amendment on a bipartisan basis in support of funding the Green Climate Fund in both Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017. We hope the Committee will continue to support the Green Climate Fund in Fiscal Year 2019.

Similarly, the UNFCCC and IPCC are the premiere spaces for international, collaborative responses to growing challenges associated with climate change, and improved global scientific

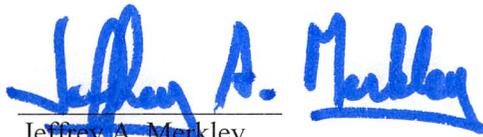
understanding of climate change. The Senate unanimously ratified the UNFCCC treaty in 1992, and the U.S. has pledged to remain engaged with the UNFCCC process under this administration. The IPCC showcases the work of countless leading U.S. scientists, and its Nobel Prize-winning products are essential to ensuring that climate policy remains grounded in fact.

Clean energy programs support cleaner air and increase energy access and security in developing countries, fulfilling Congress' vision of helping lift people out of poverty through access to reliable electricity by leveraging private sector and non-governmental investment. Adaptation programs reduce the impact of severe weather and natural disasters on critical infrastructure, agricultural productivity, and public health. Enhancing developing countries' ability to better prepare for disasters saves lives – and is vastly cheaper than responding to disasters once they have occurred. Finally, Sustainable Landscapes programs incent developing countries to curb deforestation while addressing rural poverty and improving the way lands are managed and harvested – leveraging U.S. funding up to 39 times more funding from other donors.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has a bipartisan record of support for the GCF, UNFCCC, IPCC, and other climate programs. We urge you to continue this tradition in FY19 by providing robust funding for these critically important programs and institutions in the State and Foreign Operations bill.

We appreciate your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



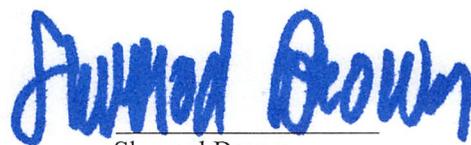
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



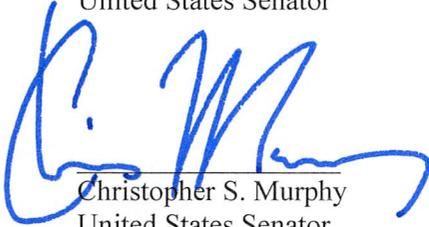
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



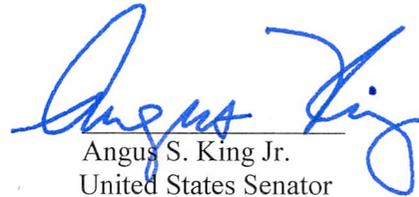
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



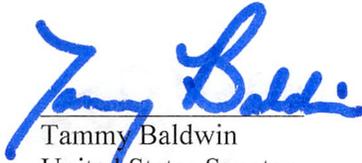
Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



Angus S. King Jr.  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



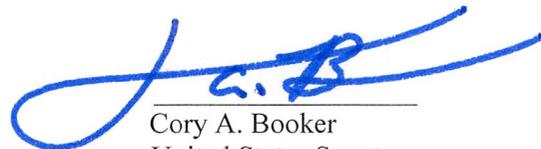
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



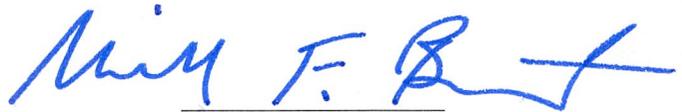
Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



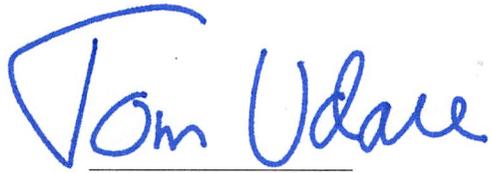
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



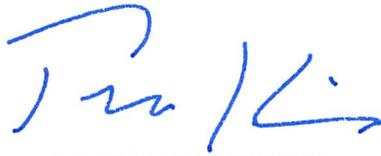
Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



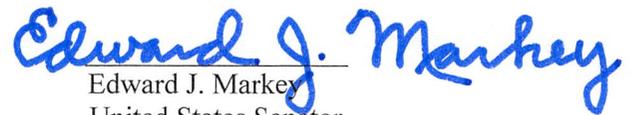
Tom Udall  
United States Senator



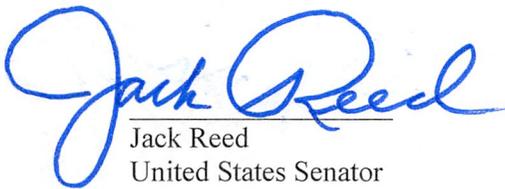
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



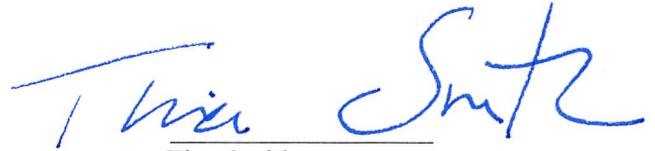
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



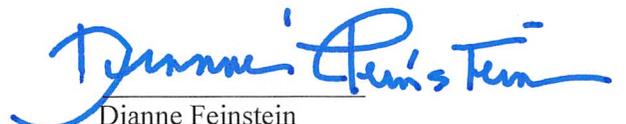
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



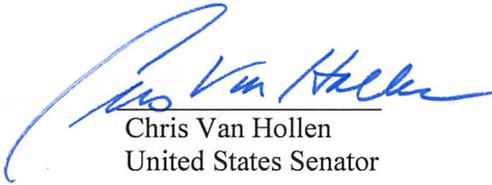
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator