

November 18, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We congratulate you on winning the Nobel Prize, which was awarded in part for your successful effort to make transformative change in our nation's leadership on climate change towards the constructive and positive direction that is required to save our blue planet. The United States of America is presented with an historic opportunity to assume a leadership role in meeting the challenges our world is confronting, particularly the great threat posed by climate change.

We are most appreciative of the leadership and statesmanship in your address to the United Nations General Assembly, including your recognition of the danger posed by climate change, urgent need to act, and your commitment to confront this global issue. Your leadership and dedication is precisely what is needed to improve the nation's and world's response to climate change.

As environmental stakeholders and scientists, we write to provide our recommendations for addressing climate change through recognition of the roles natural ocean ecosystems play in mitigating this threat.

The Earth's oceans are critically important to the global carbon cycle. Our oceans, and the marine ecosystems they support, are natural carbon sinks. In fact, healthy ocean ecosystems represent the largest active carbon sink on Earth. Scientists recognize that some coastal and marine ecosystems, including tidal marshlands, mangrove ecosystems and seagrass meadows, play a natural role in absorbing carbon from the atmosphere. The continuing degradation of our oceans and loss of these ecosystems decreases the natural capacity of our oceans to perform these functions. Healthy natural ocean ecosystems are also critical to the livelihoods and food security of millions, and to the conservation of global biodiversity.

Please consider the following recommendations:

- Support the option for **natural** ocean carbon solutions in national climate change legislation and international climate change treaties.
- Support marine science research that further explores **natural** ocean carbon solutions.

Thank you for considering our views, and for your continued commitment to addressing the threat of climate change.

Sincerely,

Signed by the following sixty-six conservation groups and stakeholders, and one hundred and fifty-eight marine scientists and professionals, together from twenty-eight states and territories and thirty-three countries (Blue Climate Coalition):

Sixty-six marine conservation groups and stakeholders:



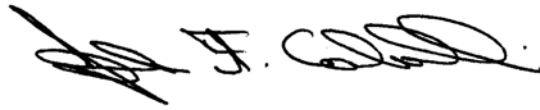
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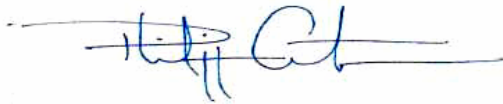
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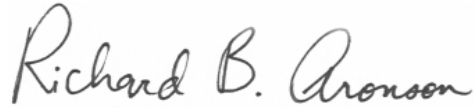
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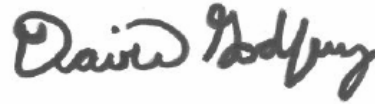
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(Affiliations are for identification only, and do not imply endorsement by the signers' institutions)

United States of America

(Ninety-six signatories from twenty-eight states and territories)

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