

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 28, 2017

The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State of the United States
2201 C St NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson,

We, the undersigned members of Congress who serve on the Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition, are writing today to draw your attention to a recent public statement from your successor as Chairman and CEO of ExxonMobil, Darren Woods.

In his first blog post on ExxonMobil's EnergyFactor blog, Mr. Woods explicitly notes the 'dual challenge' of providing energy to a growing world while taking action to address the pressing realities of climate change. Woods highlights ExxonMobil's support for the international climate action pledges which form the foundation of the Paris Agreement and calls on businesses, governments, and consumers to contribute to shared global efforts to reduce emissions in line with international commitments. He touts ExxonMobil's existing progress in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions and its forecasts which project further emissions cuts.

The blog post also discusses the importance of advanced technologies such as Carbon Capture and Storage and advanced biofuels, and endorses the idea of a price on carbon as a policy lever to help drive 'low-carbon energy solutions for the future.'

It is encouraging to read such sentiments from the leader of one of the world's largest and most prominent fossil fuel companies, a company you oversaw just two months ago. The climate crisis now facing every country and person on earth is unprecedented in scope and potential impact. As Mr. Woods says, it will take people, corporations, national and sub-national governments from around the world acting urgently to avoid the future impacts of climate change and adapt to the effects that are now inevitable.

In your time at ExxonMobil, you echoed many of the same sentiments that Mr. Woods expressed in his blog post. Now that you serve as Secretary of State, you must use your position to lead on climate action. Climate change has severe national and economic security implications, and it's imperative that the Secretary of State gives climate change the attention it deserves here at home and around the globe.

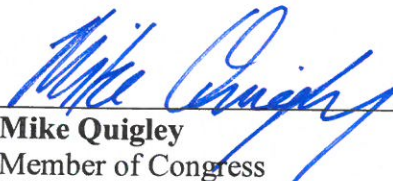
Given the magnitude of the threat climate change poses and the nature of the collective action required to address it, it is imperative that the United States remain an active party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. In addition to being the world's second largest greenhouse gas emitter, our country is viewed across the world

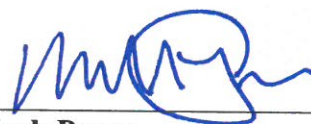
as a leader and an example and must continue to strive to meet our international climate action commitments so that other countries continue to meet theirs.

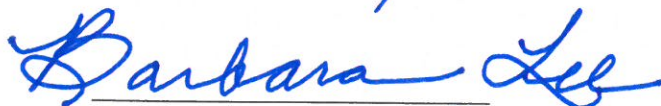
Under your leadership, the State Department must remain a leader in advocating for advanced, low-carbon technologies as well as policies to promote the shift to a sustainable global economy. As many in the Department of Defense and in the United States military understand, our national security depends on it.


As a former CEO of ExxonMobil and the Secretary of State, you have a unique understanding of the magnitude of the climate crisis we are experiencing today. We urge to you acknowledge your successor's sentiment, as well as leverage your own knowledge and experience, to support substantive climate action at the State Department and encourage it elsewhere in the federal government.

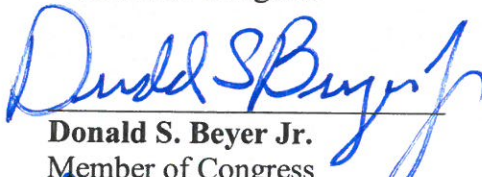
Sincerely,

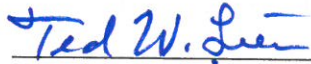

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

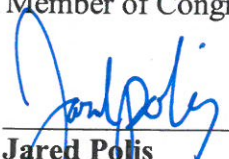

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

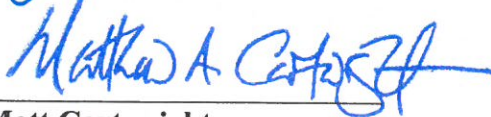

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

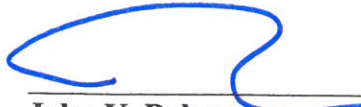

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress


Jared Polis
Member of Congress

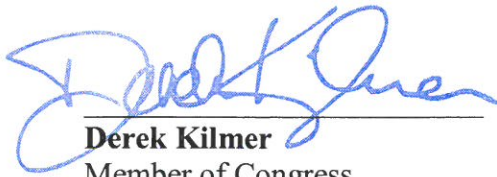

Colleen Hanabusa
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