

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

January 3, 2017

City Council

STAFF

Lindsay Ex, Environmental Program Manager
Jeff Mihelich, Deputy City Manager
Jackie Kozak-Thiel, Chief Sustainability Officer
Lucinda Smith, Environmental Sustainability Director

SUBJECT

Resolution 2017-005 Expressing Support for the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda's Open Letter to President-Elect Donald Trump on Climate Action.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to consider a resolution endorsing and supporting the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda (MNCAA) open letter to President-elect Donald Trump on climate action.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The City joined the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda (MNCAA) in 2015, as the City has climate action goals, is committed to reporting our progress, and is committed to sharing lessons learned with other U.S. cities.

At the December 20, 2016 Council Meeting under Other Business, Council directed staff to develop a resolution to consider joining 48 U.S. Mayors associated with MNCAA, including Denver, Boulder, Aspen, Palo Alto, and Kansas City, in signing an open letter to President-elect Trump (Exhibit A to Resolution 2017-005). The purpose of the letter is to request the President-elect's administration to support local initiatives; help cities leverage their investments in transit and energy infrastructure; support the transition to a clean energy future; continue federal tax credits; and embrace the Paris Climate Agreement.

How Other Communities Approached Signing the Letter

Councilmembers asked staff to research what process was used by other MNCAA communities to join in and/or to obtain their Mayor's signature. Staff sent a survey to the 48 communities with the following results:

- 14 of the 48 cities responded to the survey.
- Of these 14 cities, none had taken the signing of the letter to their Councils for a vote.
- 4 of the 14 cities are Council-Manager form of government.

RESOLUTION 2017-005
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE MAYORS NATIONAL
CLIMATE ACTION AGENDA'S OPEN LETTER TO
PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD TRUMP ON CLIMATE ACTION

WHEREAS, in 2015, City Council adopted several of the most aspirational greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals in the world in its 2015 Climate Action Plan Framework: 20% reductions by 2020 and 80% reductions by 2030 compared to 2005 emissions levels, and carbon neutrality by 2050; and

WHEREAS, on November 22, 2016, a group of U.S. Mayors associated with the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda ("MNCAA"), of which the City is a member, wrote an open letter to President-elect Donald Trump on Climate Action (the "MNCAA Letter") calling upon him to provide funding for transit- and energy-related infrastructure improvements, to continue offering tax credits for electric vehicles, renewables, and other clean technologies, and to embrace the Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the funding and tax credits called for by the MNCAA Letter would help the City of Fort Collins meet its 2020, 2030, and 2050 climate goals; and

WHEREAS, the mayors of 48 cities have endorsed the MNCAA Letter to date, including those of Denver, Boulder, Longmont, and Aspen, and MNCAA welcomes mayors of additional cities to endorse their Letter, and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to endorse the MNCAA Letter.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. That the City Council hereby makes and adopts the determinations and findings contained in the recitals set forth above.

Section 2. That the City Council endorses and supports the MNCAA Letter.

Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Fort Collins this 3rd day of January, A.D. 2017.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk



Climate Mayors [Follow](#)

American mayors working together to strengthen local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and su...

Nov 22 · 5 min read

Open Letter to President-elect Donald Trump on Climate Action

November 22, 2016

Dear President-elect Trump,

As Mayors, we have taken it upon ourselves to take bold action within our cities to tackle the climate crisis head-on. We write today to ask for your partnership in our work to clean our air, strengthen our economy, and ensure that our children inherit a nation healthier and better prepared for the future than it is today.

We lead 39 small and large American cities, comprising nearly 31 million Americans in both blue and red states. We have joined together in the U.S. Mayors' National Climate Action Agenda (MNCAA), or the #ClimateMayors, in addressing the greatest challenge of our time, climate change. Each of our cities is committing to ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, set climate action, regularly report on our progress, share lessons and hold each other accountable. Around the globe, cities are working together through organizations like C40 as well.



U.S. Climate Mayors meeting with their counterparts from China at the U.S. China Climate Summit in Los Angeles

The effects of climate change—extreme storms, wildfires and drought; sea level rise and storm surge; choking air pollution in cities; disruption of agricultural supply chains and jobs in rural heartlands; and coastal erosion, to name a few—are a clear and present danger to American interests at home and abroad. This is why the U.S. Department of Defense stated in 2015 “that climate change is an urgent and growing threat to our national security”. Furthermore, estimates have shown these impacts from climate change could cost the American economy \$500 billion annually by 2050, and that figure will only rise unless we work together to stem, and ultimately reverse, the amount of greenhouse gases entering our atmosphere.

The cost of prevention pales in comparison to cost of inaction, in terms of dollars, property and human life. As our incoming President, as a businessman, and as a parent, we believe we can find common ground when it comes to addressing an issue not rooted in politics or philosophy, but in science and hard economic data. Simply put, we can all agree that fires, flooding and financial losses are bad for our country, that we need to protect our communities’ most vulnerable residents who suffer the most from the impacts of climate change, and that we all need healthier air to breathe and a stronger economy—rural and urban, Republican and Democrat—and in terms of our domestic quality of life and our standing abroad.



On November 8, American voters approved more than \$200 billion in local measures, funded by their own local tax dollars, to improve quality of life and reduce carbon pollution. Seventy percent of voters in Los Angeles County, the car capital of the world, approved a \$120 billion, multi-decade commitment to public transit. Seattle voters approved transit investments totaling \$54 billion; Austin voters approved a record-setting \$720 million mobility bond; Boston voters approved investment in affordable housing, parks, historic preservation and more.

As President, you will have the power to expand and accelerate these local initiatives which the people resoundingly supported. We call upon you and the federal government you will lead to help cities leverage funds for the hundreds of billions of dollars in transit, energy, infrastructure and real estate development necessary to upgrade our infrastructure for the 21st century. We ask that you lead us in expanding the renewable energy sources we need to achieve energy security, address climate change and spark a new manufacturing, energy and construction boom in America. We ask that you help

provide American businesses the certainty to invest through continued tax credits for electric vehicles, solar power, renewables and other clean technologies. And we ask that you shift to embrace the Paris Climate Agreement and make U.S. cities your partner in doing so.

While we are prepared to forge ahead even in the absence of federal support, we know that if we stand united on this issue, we can make change that will resonate for generations. We have no choice and no room to doubt our resolve. The time for bold leadership and action is now.

Signed,

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City of Los Angeles, CA

Mayor Martin J Walsh
City of Boston, MA

Mayor Bill de Blasio
New York City, NY

Mayor Edward B Murray
City of Seattle, WA

Mayor Stephen K Benjamin
City of Columbia, SC

Mayor Jennifer W Roberts
City of Charlotte, NC

Mayor Rahm Emanuel
City of Chicago, IL

Mayor Greg Stanton
City of Phoenix, AZ

Mayor Jim Kenney
City of Philadelphia, PA

Mayor Buddy Dyer
City of Orlando, FL

Mayor Roy D Buol
City of Dubuque, IA

Mayor Charlie Hales
City of Portland, OR

Mayor Jackie Biskupski
Salt Lake City, UT

Mayor Libby Schaaf
City of Oakland, CA

Mayor Sam Liccardo
City of San Jose, CA

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Washington, DC

Mayor Christopher B Coleman
City of Saint Paul, MN

Mayor Kasim Reed
City of Atlanta, GA

Mayor Sly James
City of Kansas City, MO

Mayor Michael B Hancock
City and County of Denver, CO

Mayor Steve Adler
City of Austin, TX

Mayor Ed Lee
City of San Francisco, CA

Mayor Bill Peduto
City of Pittsburgh, PA

Mayor Kitty Piercy
City of Eugene, OR

Mayor Tom Bates
City of Berkeley, CA

Mayor Tony Vasquez
City of Santa Monica, CA

Mayor Joseph A Curtatone
City of Somerville, MA

Mayor Steve Skadron
City of Aspen, CO

Mayor Suzanne Jones
City of Boulder, CO

Mayor Jack Thomas
Park City, UT

Mayor Mary Casillas Salas
City of Chula Vista, CA

Mayor Elizabeth B. Tisdhal
City of Evanston, IL

Mayor-elect Darrell Steinberg
City of Sacramento, CA

Mayor Sylvester Turner*
City of Houston, TX

Mayor Patrick Burt*
City of Palo Alto, CA

Mayor Mitch Landrieu*
City of New Orleans, LA

Mayor Phillip Levine*
City of Miami Beach, FL

Mayor Lioneld Jordan*
City of Fayetteville, NC

Mayor Betsy Hodges*
City of Minneapolis, MN

**Updated signatories as of 10:30pm PST, 29 November 2016*