

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 30, 2014

Dear Colleague,

As you may know, thirty-one of us recently took to the floor of the Senate for a “climate all-nighter” to express our concern over Congress’s inaction on carbon pollution. We have heard some feedback expressing concerns that Republican colleagues were not invited to join in. We would welcome an opportunity to engage with our Republican colleagues in a discussion of how to address the problems of climate change. Indeed, we think our Republican colleagues could have a lot to offer if they wish to join us in exploring solutions.

Republican colleagues have co-authored bipartisan climate legislation, voted for the comprehensive Waxman/Markey climate legislation in the House, spoken out in favor of a carbon fee, and campaigned for national office on climate action. Republican senators represent states with great coastal cities inundated by rising tides, states with farmlands swept by unprecedented floods and droughts, states with forests lost to encroaching pine beetles and wildfires unprecedented in season and intensity, states with disappearing glaciers and reduced snowpack, and states with dying coral reefs and shifting habitats and fisheries. Republican senators represent home-state corporations with international brand names, corporations that urge action on climate. Republican senators represent great universities that contribute to the scientific understanding of climate change and how human activities are changing it. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss climate change and how to respond to it with Republican senators.

For any colleague who felt left out of our climate all-nighter we invite you to come to the floor. We’ve requested from leadership that time after votes on June 9th be reserved to engage in a robust exchange of views.

We earnestly believe that the stakes of failing to exercise American leadership and solve this problem are very high, with ramifications for our health and safety, our economic well-being, our food and water supplies, and our national security and standing. We hope you will join us in a sincere discussion.

Sincerely,

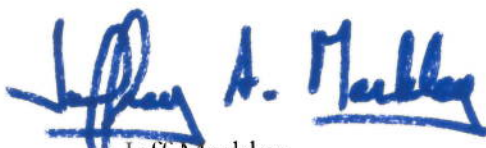


Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



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United States Senator