

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 17, 2015

Christy Goldfuss  
Managing Director  
White House Council on Environmental Quality  
722 Jackson Place, N.W. Washington, D.C.

Dear Director Goldfuss:

We are writing today in support of the White House Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) guidance on incorporating climate change and green-house gas emissions into the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) analysis. We urge your continued work to provide guidance to federal agencies to fully assess the costs and impacts of climate change.

The CEQ's guidance is an important step towards ensuring consistency in how federal agencies assess the threat of climate change within the current requirements and scope of NEPA. Once finalized, we believe the guidance will result in better informed decisions – decisions that will ensure critical infrastructure is resilient to the impacts of climate change and will mandate a full accounting of environmental externalities. We appreciate that CEQ's guidance recognizes the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC) as a tool to evaluate the climate effects of federal actions. We believe agencies should actively examine the application of the SCC to proposed actions to better understand their implications and inform agencies' decision-making.

As the United States strives to lead efforts to address global climate change, it is imperative to have consistency and accuracy in analysis of environmental impacts for the federal government. Since NEPA was passed into law in 1970, over one-hundred countries have enacted similar policies to safeguard their environment. The United States should continue to advance policies, both domestically and globally, which take a holistic view of the impacts of greenhouse-gas emissions, and strive to invest our resources in sustainable and resilient projects.

Addressing climate change in the NEPA process also allows for the public to have a voice in addressing the problem. Recent polling shows that a majority of Americans agree that climate change is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. We are encouraged that the Administration is taking steps to provide clearer avenues for Americans to voice that concern through NEPA.

We thank you again for your work to guide the federal decision process to appropriately and accurately consider the costs of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change to society. We look forward to working with the CEQ to further strengthen this guidance and federal planning.

Sincerely,



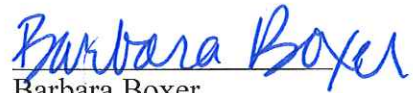
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
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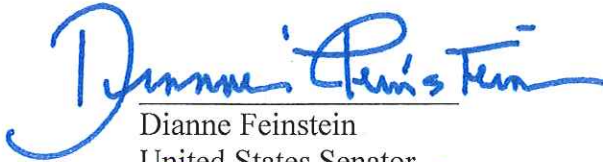
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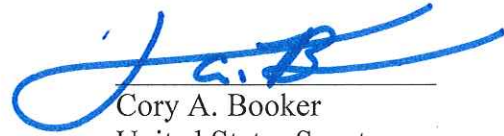
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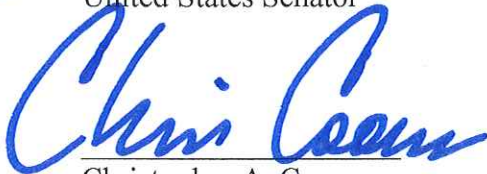
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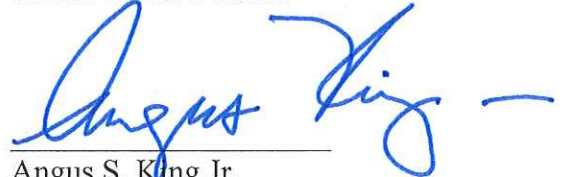
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United States Senator



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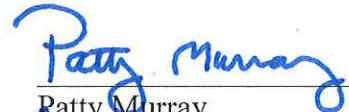
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Ron Wyden  
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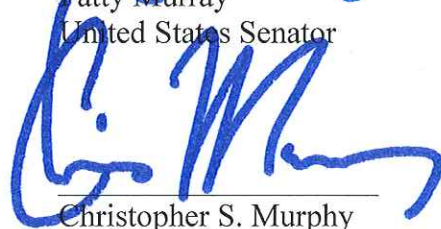
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Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator