April 8, 2021

Dear President Biden,

We offer you our most sincere gratitude for having moved swiftly to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement. In our view, the importance of rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement was not just about preventing rapidly escalating health harms from climate change. It's also about seizing this public health crisis and turning it into a major public health opportunity—because climate solutions have immediate, as well as long term, health benefits.

Accelerating the inevitable transition to clean, renewable energy will allow all Americans to breathe cleaner air and drink cleaner water. Climate-friendly approaches to agriculture, soil management and forests will improve the quality of our food, water and air. Rebuilding our communities to be greener, cooler, and more-energy efficient, and transportation systems to be more pedestrian- and bike-friendly, and building, maintaining, and funding affordable mass transit will help people live more active, healthier lives, and increase America's resilience to the impacts of climate change. In addition to being what's necessary to limit climate change, every one of these steps will improve the health of all Americans, save lives, and reduce health costs—and will do so rapidly.

Every one of these steps, if implemented thoughtfully, can also help to create a fairer, more equitable, and more prosperous America. They are an opportunity to begin the process of ending environmental injustice that has for so long harmed the health of people in low-income communities and communities of color. And they are an opportunity to create good, sustainable jobs that are an important foundation of good health and financial security.

As you consider the climate commitments that America will make later this year at COP-26 meeting in Glasgow—our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the parlance of the Paris Agreement—we urge you to "go big" for our climate, and for our health.

America's health professionals will work tirelessly with you and your Administration, and with all future Presidents and their Administrations, to help America deliver on ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions. Doing so is one of the most important ways we can help ensure the good health and wellbeing of all Americans.

The work of the climate community and the work of the health community are, in fact, a single project. Working together, we can implement solutions that improve our health and the health of our planet.

Most respectfully,

Mona Sarfaty, MD MPH and Edward Maibach, MPH PhD
Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health

The Medical Society Consortium ON CLIMATE & HEALTH

On behalf of:

Academy for Integrative Health & Medicine
African Heritage PA Caucus
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Community Psychiatry
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Lung Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Meteorological Society
Association for Academic Physiatry
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Break the Cycle of Climate Change
Chicago PSR
Children's Environmental Health Network
Climate for Health, ecoAmerica
Climate Health Now
Eco-Healthy Solutions
Endocrine Society
George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication
Georgia Clinicians for Climate Action
Georgia State Medical Association, Inc.
Global Climate & Health Alliance
Harvard University C-CHANGE
Health Care Without Harm
Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate
Healthy Air and Water Colorado
Medical Society Consortium on Climate & Health
Medical Students for a Sustainable Future
Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action
Mothers & Others for Clean Air
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National League for Nursing
New Jersey Clinicians for Climate Action
Pediatricians for Climate Action
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Public Health Institute
Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
Vermont Climate and Health Alliance
Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action
Wisconsin Health Professionals for Climate Action

An open version of this letter and a current list of endorsing health organizations is available at https://climatehealthaction.org/cta/president-biden-go-big-at-COP26-for-health/.