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**Appendix 1**

The Honorable Gina McCarthy  
National Climate Advisor  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Michael Regan  
Nominee for Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable John Kerry  
Special Presidential Envoy for Climate  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. McCarthy, Mr. Regan, and Mr. Kerry,

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) represents the nearly 7,000 graduate students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), [potentially add other schools]. We support proactive policies to mitigate the effects of climate change and to promote the study and monitoring of climate change and its effects.

**We sincerely thank the Biden administration for prioritizing this issue and for its recent initial steps to combat the climate crisis**

**As future leaders of research, we strongly support the administration's ongoing efforts to integrate climate change into foreign policy and to set ambitious renewable energy and emissions targets. We further encourage the administration to promote and fund rigorous climate research and to prioritize emissions-cutting policies to make the US a leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.**

**Efforts to monitor climate change and understand its effects require promoting rigorous and well funded research. Specifically, we recommend:**

1. **Expanding fellowships for graduate students focused on understanding and addressing the climate crisis.** Graduate students are developing climate-related research projects including [developing more accurate atmospheric models](#) and [effects of air pollution on mortality in the US](#), among [many others](#), efforts which will be vital for understanding the effects of the changing climate, mitigating the pace of climate change, and increasing climate resilience. [Graduate and postdoctoral fellowships at the Department of Energy](#) focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency should be expanded, and fellowship programs at institutions which play a crucial role in addressing climate change, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Defense, should consider climate-related work to be high-priority areas.

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2. **Abandon [EPA rule 86 FR 469](#) so as not to hinder the use of science in environmental regulations.** While this rule nominally seeks to strengthen transparency in science used for regulatory action, it [does not have the support of the scientific community](#), and the rule as currently implemented [hinders the ability of science to be used in critical regulations for public health](#) and risks politicizing EPA regulations due to [ambiguity in proposed methods for independent validation and identification of rule exceptions](#).
3. **Increased investment research and development, specifically in the area of energy efficiency, to reach clean energy goals.** Policy and industry experts agree that to achieve the administration's goals of decarbonizing the economy, [increased investment in research development is needed over the coming decade](#). Movement towards electrifying the transportation and home heating sectors will cause demand on the electricity sector to grow. Robust energy efficiency investments, both research and deployment, will make the transition to an electrified economy easier, faster, and cheaper.

**We support the administration's broader efforts to prioritize urgent actions to mitigate climate change and to encourage further ambitious and concerted policies.** Specifically we recommend:

4. **Set a carbon price specifically targeted at achieving emissions reduction goals.** While potential carbon pricing schemes vary widely, [policy experts have devised pricing schemes](#) that are specifically targeted at adjusting pricing over time to achieve net-zero emission goals. The [Chamber of Commerce and others in the business community](#) are supportive of carbon pricing as a form of climate action, as it encourages private sector innovation in tackling emissions.
5. **Set legally binding interim goals for renewable energy consumption and emissions reduction in-line with scientific consensus.** To limit the probability of warming beyond 1.5 °C, [steady declines in emission reductions must be achieved continually](#) over the next 3 decades, necessitating aggressive and legally binding interim emissions cutting goals. Experts show that these goals can be achieved by [large and continual investments in renewable energy infrastructure](#) over the next decade while simultaneously creating hundreds of thousands of jobs each year.
6. **Increase the US commitment to the Green Climate Fund set up by the Paris Accord.** Climate change is going to require emission reductions from many nations and have adverse impacts on communities around the world. The US should strive to be a global climate leader by supporting climate mitigation and adaptation infrastructure projects in other nations, a commitment which benefits all global citizens and [comes at a low cost to the US taxpayer](#).
7. **Investigate how changes to travel, work, and transportation could promote emissions reductions, drawing lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic.** The Federal government should consider how changes such as remote-attendance options for conferences, encouraging public transit as a recommended method for employee travel, and equitable approaches to remote work could reduce the government's carbon footprint and spur broader emissions reductions in society.

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We look forward to working with the Biden administration to increase research and development in climate change related issues and pursue aggressive emission-cutting policies. If you would like to know more about the role of graduate students in climate change related research and our recommended policies to combat this crisis as members of generation who will bear the brunt of climate change, please reach out to us at [gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu).

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