

December 22, 2016

ATTN: Donald Trump
The Mar-a-Lago Club
1100 South Ocean Boulevard
Palm Beach, FL 33480

Dear President-Elect Trump:

As Florida scientists we are gravely concerned about the impact of sea level rise on our state. The future of Florida is at stake. While you are here for the holidays we'd like to have a face-to-face meeting with you to discuss the implications of sea level rise.

As [Bloomberg's Businessweek recently reported](#), much of your Mar-a-Lago Club could be under water in coming years because of man-made climate change. Many of Florida's waterfront properties (including yours) are vulnerable to even minor increases in sea level because of erosion and storm surge. This is not a distant threat. Climate change is making an impact today. Even you have addressed the threat of rising seas as [you've proposed building a seawall](#) to protect your golf resort and hotel in Doonbeg, Ireland.

Climate change is a serious, urgent threat to our economy and quality of life. The good news is that there are robust job creation opportunities in the growing clean energy economy. For you, it presents the opportunity for real leadership. [The International Renewable Energy Agency](#) found renewable energy jobs increased by 5% last year to 8.1 million jobs worldwide.

We would like to discuss the impact that sea level rise will have on properties like Mar-a-Lago which could jeopardize their value in the coming decades. Climate change poses a threat to all Floridians, but clean energy solutions like efficiency and solar power will create thousands of jobs, boost our economy and improve the quality of life for all Americans. Clean energy jobs can help make America great again.

Below is a copy of our previous letter, which was signed by over two-dozen Florida scientists last October.

Sincerely,

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Emeritus Professor of Geosciences
Florida Atlantic University

Jeff Chanton, Professor
The John Widmer Winchester Professor of Oceanography
Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science
Florida State University

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David Hastings, Professor of Marine Science & Chemistry
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Disclaimer: *The views and opinions expressed in this letter are those of the individuals and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of their respective organization.*

October 26, 2016

ATTN: Donald Trump Campaign
Florida GOP Headquarters
420 E Jefferson St
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Mr. Trump:

As scientists who make our home in Florida, which is considered “ground zero” for climate change impacts, we would like to meet you to present you with the latest climate science. Climate change is not a hoax.

On the heels of Hurricane Matthew, we are reminded how fragile our infrastructure is. One bad storm has the potential to ruin thousands of lives, and devastate local economies. In addition to incremental increases in global temperature and sea level there is compelling evidence that climate change is associated with an increase in severe and extreme weather events.

In Florida we study the impact of sea level rise and how it threatens our beaches and shorelines, strains our aging sewerage systems and compromises our drinking water. We are watching the destruction of our coral reefs, which are being hit with bleaching events and ocean acidification. Our reefs are not just something beautiful to look at. Coral reef biodiversity is a source for new discoveries in medicine, chemicals, and other materials. We are deeply concerned about the spread of Zika, West Nile Virus, and Dengue fever – tropical diseases that are spreading to our state as mosquitoes thrive in a warmer climate.

The impacts of climate change are a direct threat to Florida’s tourism-based economy. Zika, disappearing beaches, and dangerous weather can frighten away tourists that keep Florida’s economy churning. Fortunately, Florida’s economy can thrive with strategic investment in distributed solar power, and we can create thousands of jobs with clean technologies.

We cannot sit and be quiet.

When asked about climate change, you have said, “I’m not a big believer in man-made climate change. There could be some impact, but I don’t believe it’s a devastating impact.”

It is crucial for policymakers to have a full understanding of the current and future threats of climate change. A part of doing business is evaluating risk. Instead of ignoring this threat, we invite you to confront it head on and make sure that America “wins” on clean energy.

We join with the 375 members of the National Academy of Sciences, including 30 Nobel laureates who warn that the consequences of opting out of the Paris agreement would be severe and long lasting for our planet's climate.

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss climate science, and we await your response.

Sincerely,

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University of South Florida

Senthod Asseng, Professor
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University of Florida

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Institute of Public Health
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