November 22, 2021

Dear Dr. Rao,

Thank you for writing to me about the climate crisis, one of the most consequential challenges and existential threats of our time.

We see it every day across the Nation. Raging wildfires are reducing entire towns in the West to ash. Hurricanes are pummeling states along the Gulf with increasing strength and frequency. Historic droughts and floods are destroying farmland in the Midwest. Rising oceans are threatening cities on every coast.

To meet the urgency of this moment, my Administration has set ambitious goals that will put climate change at the center of our domestic, national security, and foreign policy. Reaching these goals will empower the United States to achieve a carbon pollution-free power sector by 2035 and put our Nation on an irreversible path to a net-zero economy by 2050.

Since taking office, I have recommitted the United States to the Paris Climate Agreement and have ordered an immediate review of harmful rollbacks of environmental standards that protect our air, water, and public health. I have also ordered key federal agencies and departments to integrate climate considerations and environmental justice into their work at home and abroad.
When I think of climate change, I think of good-paying union jobs. Through the American Jobs Plan, we have the once-in-a-generation opportunity to create millions of American jobs by building a 21st century climate-resilient infrastructure and by manufacturing the clean energy technology of the future right here in America.

We must be bold in transitioning away from the energy sources of the past, which is why I have directed the Secretary of the Interior, consistent with existing law, to pause oil and natural gas leasing on public lands and offshore waters. I have also ordered federal agencies to end fossil fuel subsidies wherever possible. However, we will not abandon the communities that have kept our lights on and our heat running for generations. As President, I’m committed to making investments to assist coal, oil, natural gas, and power plant communities as our Nation transitions to a green energy economy.

Please know that I will keep your letter in mind as we, as a Nation, tackle the climate crisis with American jobs and ingenuity and lead the world by the power of our example.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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