

# 42 large U.S. companies call on Biden, Congress to act on climate change

By Hannah Denham

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/12/03/joe-biden-trump-transition-live-updates/#link-2O0EEHDVDBCZMR5YO2GUR4O AQ>

President Trump announced in June 2017 that the United States would withdraw from the 2015 Paris climate accord, arguing that the Obama administration's pledges to cut carbon emissions under the deal would "hurt the competitiveness" of the United States. (Joshua Roberts/Reuters)

More than three dozen corporate titans, including Amazon, Goldman Sachs, General Motors, Walmart and Shell, have called on Biden and the new Congress to rejoin the Paris agreement and to work together to implement ambitious climate change policies. Action is a "business imperative" even with the economic challenges of clean energy and climate protection, according to a [statement](#) representing 42 companies and coordinated by the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, a nonpartisan advocacy group.

The letter notes the rising costs of climate change: "Record wildfires, flooding, hurricanes and other extreme weather are upending lives and livelihoods. And science makes clear that future generations will face far greater environmental, economic and health impacts unless we act now."

In June 2017, Trump announced [the United States](#) would withdraw from the pact, under which nearly 200 countries made voluntary, nonbinding pledges to reduce their carbon emissions over time. He

has called the agreement a job killer that “disadvantages the United States to the exclusive benefit of other countries.” The withdrawal became official Nov. 4, the day after the election. Biden has pledged to apply to rejoin the agreement on his first day in office.

The letter called for the U.S. government to seek a net-zero economy through national policies that plan for the long term and protect marginalized communities, including those who will lose work from the transition to clean energy.

The election created “a critical opportunity to significantly strengthen these efforts,” the statement said. “We stand ready to work with stakeholders on all sides and with our elected leaders to seize this moment and achieve ambitious, durable climate solutions.”