

October 29, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

On the one year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, one of the most catastrophic weather events in US history resulting in \$70 billion in economic losses, we write to voice our strong support for the climate change preparedness efforts outlined in your Climate Action Plan, and to call on your administration to implement that Plan. As a group of companies with global reach, we have experienced first-hand the economic impacts of increasingly severe weather on our operations and supply chains. We simply cannot effectively respond to increasingly frequent and extreme climate events, like Sandy, without meaningful investments in climate preparedness.

Our businesses depend upon a resilient infrastructure, resilient communities, and resilient value chains. In recent years, severe weather events, combined with rising temperatures, have devastated critical infrastructure, decreased crop yields, and threatened water supplies. These trends are being felt globally. The 2011 floods in Thailand led to the insurance industries' highest ever recorded flood loss event with more than 14,500 companies reliant on Thai suppliers suffering business disruptions worldwide. Financial impacts such as these can be minimized through smart risk reduction investments that simultaneously create jobs and stimulate economic growth. In fact, business opportunities exist in developing climate change preparedness technologies and services in existing and emerging markets.

We call upon your administration to follow through on commitments for robust support of climate change resilience efforts—in the US as well as in the world's most vulnerable countries. Federal investment in climate science and efforts that communicate this information effectively to companies and communities, together with support for disaster planning and risk management in multiple sectors, represent critical components of your Climate Action Plan. We must ensure that federal dollars flow towards programs and projects that provide win-win opportunities, mutually benefiting the most vulnerable communities and the businesses they rely on for employment, products and services. Such investment is critical to strengthen resilience in global value chains.

It goes without saying that climate resilience efforts must be coupled with a robust strategy to mitigate the overall impact of global climate change through aggressive emissions reductions. We will continue to do our part in reducing our own carbon footprints and will look to the government to do the same.

By working together, the private and public sectors can improve climate preparedness while building a stronger economy and more resilient communities. We stand with you in strengthening these efforts in the US and abroad.

Sincerely,

Annie's Homegrown
Aspen Skiing Company
Ben & Jerry's
Burton Snowboards
Calvert Investments
Eastern Bank
EILEEN FISHER
Green Mountain Coffee Roasters
Levi Strauss & Company
L'Oreal

Mars Incorporated
New Belgium Brewing
Patagonia
Portland Trail Blazers
Starbucks
Stonyfield Farm
Swiss Re Americas
Symantec
Unilever
United Natural Foods Inc.