

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 1, 2017

The Hon. Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, we wrote to you to request an update on the Fourth National Climate Assessment . In that letter, we asked for information on the process to be used for preparing and reviewing both the Climate Science Special Report and the final National Climate Assessment. We also asked for details on what safeguards are in place to ensure that the National Climate Assessment and the Climate Science Special Report give fair and accurate summations of the latest climate science without political interference.

We are still awaiting your reply. In the meantime, the public release of the Climate Science Special Report is expected in the coming days . The most recent draft that was obtained by the *New York Times* in August incorporated input from independent expert reviewers at the National Academy of Sciences. This draft report provides yet more confirmation that human activities are dramatically changing our climate. Unless serious action is taken to rapidly reduce emissions, the United States will continue to warm several degrees over this century, with damages to infrastructure, ecosystems, and human health.

We understand that the Climate Science Special Report has cleared the federal interagency review process led by the Subcommittee on Global Change Research of the National Science and Technology Council and is in the final production stages. Once it is released, we would like to know how the Trump Administration plans to address the report's findings. The Global Change Research Act of 1990 requires that this report be presented to the President and Congress every four years. What are agency plans for briefing President Trump and senior administration officials about the findings in this report?

In addition, Volume 2 of the National Climate Assessment should be sent out for its first review very shortly. We strongly urge you to avoid any political interference and maintain the scientific integrity of the full National Climate Assessment documents. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



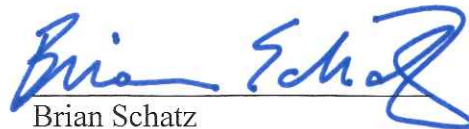
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Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator




Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



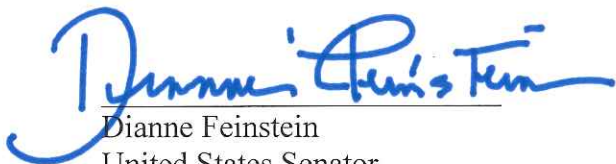
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Ron Wyden  
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Jack Reed  
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