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AMERICAN COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENTS' CLIMATE COMMITMENT

May 22, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20050

Dear President Obama,

We are signatories of the American College & Universities Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), a high-visibility and voluntary effort led by presidents and chancellors to address sustainability and climate issues. The ACUPCC provides a framework and support for America's colleges and universities to implement comprehensive plans in pursuit of climate neutrality.

Since its launch in 2007, more than 680 institutions have signed on to the ACUPCC, representing nearly 6.5 million students in all 50 states, D.C., and every type of public and private institutions. To date, institutions of the ACUPCC have reduced cumulative CO2 emissions by more than 25% since 2007. Additionally, ACUPCC signatories have set reduction targets that will eliminate gross GHG emissions by an estimated 7.6 million metric tons of CO2 in the next 15 years.

As leaders of the nation's colleges and universities, we understand that institutions of higher education have a moral and social responsibility to rise to the challenge of global climate disruption, which threatens the very viability of our society. We are writing to support your efforts to ensure a livable future for future generations through regulations on carbon emissions from power plants.

Carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases fuel climate change that raises global temperatures and drives extreme weather. Extreme weather events including floods, droughts and hurricanes cause serious harm and cost billions of dollars in disaster recovery every year. Climate change is also an issue of intergenerational justice, and presents a unique challenge for institutions of higher education.

Addressing the climate crisis through reducing carbon pollution from power plants fits squarely into the educational, research, and public service missions of Higher Education. We commend your efforts and encourage you to do even more to address this growing threat. Limiting industrial carbon pollution is a critical step towards protecting our institutions of learning from the worst impacts of climate change.

Mr. President, you have the authority to address the climate crisis through carbon emissions regulations and we strongly support your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Wim Wiewel
President, Portland State University
Chair, ACUPCC Steering Committee