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Top Scientists: Don't Abandon Paris Climate Agreement

375 Members of the National Academy of Sciences, Including 30 Nobel Laureates, Pen Open Letter on Climate Urgency and Dangers of Withdrawal from Paris Agreement

TELE-PRESS BRIEFING TO BE HELD AT 10AM ET

Dial: 408-638-0968; Meeting ID: 556-660-1108

Sept. 20, 2016 – Today, 375 members of the **National Academy of Sciences** published an [open letter](#) that draws attention to the serious risks of climate change. The letter also highlights the urgent need to reduce heat-trapping emissions as part of the Paris Agreement. The scientists warn that a U.S. withdrawal from this agreement would diminish U.S. credibility internationally, hobble U.S. economic competitiveness in developing and marketing clean energy sources, and undermine the world's ability to deal with climate change. The Republican nominee for President has advocated withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, as documented [here](#) and [here](#).

The National Academy of Sciences was formed under President Abraham Lincoln to provide independent scientific advice to policymakers. Academy membership is considered one of the highest honors in science. Among the 375 signers are noted physicist Dr. Stephen Hawking and biologist Dr. E.O. Wilson, and 30 Nobel Prize winners. The signers are acting in their capacity as citizens and scientists. The letter is not an official communication from the Academy or from other institutions with which the scientists are associated.

Climate scientist Dr. Benjamin Santer, who helped to organize the letter, said he felt it was important to speak out. "Human-caused climate change is real, is serious, and is happening now. The United States has to be a leader in international efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and solve this global problem."

Dr. Kerry Emanuel, another climate scientist and letter organizer, stated, "we are in real danger of rolling back what progress we have made, exposing our descendants to unacceptable levels of risk."

Dr. Akin Mabogunje, a renowned geographer from Nigeria and the first African to be elected a Foreign Associate of the Academy, said, "I feel privileged to join the voices of scientists internationally in calling attention to the catastrophe that could follow indifference to this challenge by a leader country such as the United States."

Dr. Lonnie Thompson, a signer and world-famous glaciologist, just returned from a six-week trip studying glaciers in Peru – a vital source of water for that region. "What I observed was by far the largest ice loss that I have seen on these glaciers in the 42 years I've been doing this."

Astrophysicist Dr. George B. Field, another organizer, stressed "the role that scientific expertise must play in informing policy decisions, whether in climate change, genetics, medicine, and other scientific fields that impact society." Astrophysicist Dr. Ray Weymann, the fourth organizer, said, "the response

of so many NAS members shows that this isn't just of concern to climate scientists – it demonstrates the strong consensus of the broader scientific community on the urgency of this issue."

Commenting on the letter, Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, a recipient of the Academy's Public Welfare Medal, said, "For lawmakers to not heed the advice of esteemed scientists on matters of science, in this the 21st century, signals the beginning of the end of an informed democracy."

A press call will be held today with leading climate scientists to discuss today's announcement.

WHAT	Press briefing on letter from 375 NAS members on the danger of climate denial.
WHEN	Tuesday, Sept 20 at 10am ET
WHO	Dr. Kerry Emanuel , Professor of Meteorology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge Dr. Benjamin Santer , Climate Scientist Dr. Ray Weymann , Astrophysicist, Carnegie Institution for Science
WHERE	Join online for best audio and Q&A participation, or dial: 408-638-0968 Meeting ID: 556-660-1108
RSVP	Send RSVPs to responsiblescientists@gmail.com

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