

July 15, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Prime Minister:

We write as leaders of British Columbia, California, Oregon and Washington State, to ask for your leadership in tackling the increasingly urgent challenge of ocean acidification and related human-caused changes in the condition of the world's oceans.

At the heart of protecting our oceans is the imperative to significantly reduce the world's emissions of carbon dioxide. We are grateful for your administrations' leadership in reducing the carbon pollution that threatens our climate and the health of our oceans. We stood with you in Paris, and we remain united in addressing this existential challenge. We believe the changing condition of our oceans expands the scope of the challenge, while also increasing the number of voices calling on the world to act.

Through the Pacific Coast Collaborative, we are working together to address critical climate and energy issues that affect the health of our communities, natural resources and economies along the West Coast. In 2013, we supported the convening of The West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel, leading to the recent release of their comprehensive report titled, "The West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel Major Findings, Recommendations and Actions."

Our scientists have confirmed that ocean acidity has already increased by 30 percent and is expected to double over pre-industrial levels by the end of this century, and that the ocean absorbs roughly one-third of the atmospheric carbon dioxide generated by human activities. More alarming, based on extensive laboratory and field studies conducted worldwide, significant impacts on key organisms, coastal ecosystems, and marine-dependent industries are already detectable, and these systems will undoubtedly face high risk of impacts before the end of the century.

In response to these findings, and consistent with our pledge in Paris, we strengthened our commitments on climate change and clean energy during the recent Clean Energy Ministerial, including the following actions to address ocean acidification:

- *In partnership with federal agencies (U.S. and Canada) and key stakeholders, design and implement coordinated, effective West Coast ocean acidification monitoring and research.*

- *Initiate the development of an international network of countries, states, provinces and cities that will work together to address the threat of changing ocean conditions with a particular focus on ocean acidification.*

We believe the severity of this problem warrants increased and collective action, from both subnational and national governments. For this reason, we make the following requests of your administrations.

First, we ask that you continue to increase research and monitoring investments along the Pacific Coast, in particular to develop and deploy a West Coast monitoring network that can provide critical information to resource managers and the fisheries industries to adapt to changing conditions and help mitigate the threat of ocean acidification. We have benefited from a partnership with the U.S. Federal Intergovernmental Working Group on Ocean Acidification, and we have initiated collaborative efforts to work with them to continue to develop a robust and complete West Coast monitoring network.

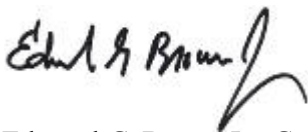
Second, we urge you to initiate or strengthen programs to protect important biodiversity, to control local runoff where it contributes to nearshore acidification and hypoxia, and to assist our fishery industries to adapt. As discussed in the recent West Coast report, there is a wide range of federal programs that could be focused to deal with ocean acidification and related problems.

Third, we respectfully ask that you direct your administrations to advance this work, with clear leads, cross-cutting support, sufficient expertise and resources, and accountability. As a strong model of the needed approach, we endorse the work of the U.S. National Ocean Council, and urge its continuation. More importantly, we recommend that the U.S. and Canada agencies work together, as our two nations share significant common interests and opportunities for productive collaboration.

And fourth, we ask that you join us in developing an international collaborative of governments, ocean-dependent industries and ocean advocates that are willing to call for global action to address the causes and effects of ocean acidification. We recognize the Our Ocean conference, to be hosted in September 2016 by Secretary Kerry and the U.S. State Department, as a compelling venue in which to advance this effort.

We look forward to working with you to combat this threat to our marine ecosystems and the economies and communities they support.

Sincerely,



Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor
State of California



Christy Clark, Premier
Province of British Columbia



Kate Brown, Governor
State of Oregon



Jay Inslee, Governor
State of Washington

Copy Furnished:

The Honorable John Kerry, U.S. Secretary of State

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Administrator, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The Honorable Gina McCarthy, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast
Guard