

Minnesota House of Representatives



Minnesota State Senate

November 20, 2017

Governor Mark Dayton
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton,

As the negotiations in Bonn Germany come to a close, the need for states, including Minnesota, to take bold action on climate change has never been clearer.

Minnesota has taken significant steps to develop its renewable energy resources. Beginning more than twenty years ago, the state has promoted energy efficiency, wind, and solar power to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while creating jobs and cleaning the environment. The state is committed, by law, to sharp reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. We applaud you for your past leadership. Now we are asking you to do more.

We cannot gamble with the lives of all future generations by ignoring the real risk of climate change caused by the greenhouse gas emissions that we humans are producing. A recent report published by the National Academy of Sciences said that there is a 1-in-20 chance that human-caused climate change will have an impact that is "beyond catastrophic" by the end of the century, threatening the very survival of our children and grandchildren.

Minnesota must *implement* the bold greenhouse gas emission reduction goals that were put into state law in 2007. Implementation requires that each agency must be doing its part to meet our greenhouse emission reduction goals. Other Governors have acted through Executive Orders, and we urge you to do the same. A strong climate change Executive Order will tell Minnesotans that you are committed to meet the climate change challenge and create a durable legacy of leadership for the benefit of our children, grandchildren, and future generations of Minnesotans.

The increasingly dramatic messages from the scientific community demand bold action. That recent report from the National Academy of Sciences estimated a 1-in-20 chance that global temperatures could rise by 5° Celsius by the end of the century—*far* worse than the 2° rise that the Paris Climate Accords committed to preventing. Worse even than the *catastrophic* impacts that the report said a 3° rise would trigger. The report described a 5° increase as "*beyond catastrophic*" because it threatens the very existence of humanity. One of the scientists involved said, "To put [it] in perspective, how many of us would choose to buckle our grandchildren to an airplane seat if we knew there was as much as a 1-in-20 chance of the plane crashing?"

We are counting on you. You have signed the Under 2 MOU, you have joined the Climate Alliance, you have stated your intention to see all coal plants in Minnesota retire in your lifetime. Now for the sake of our children and grandchildren it is time for the state agencies that you control to implement actions to meet Minnesota's state greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Marty".

Senator John Marty

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jean Wagenius".

Representative Jean Wagenius