



# The Society for the Study of Social Problems

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October 22, 2018

Senator Jeff Merkley  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Jeff Merkley:

On behalf of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), one of the oldest and most respected social justice social science professional organizations in the country, with members from virtually every state and many countries around the world, we are writing to thank and applaud you for your legislative efforts on climate change. In our annual meeting in Philadelphia this past August, the SSSP's membership approved a resolution in support of the Paris Agreement and other measures, such as the *Clean Energy Just Transition Act* and the "100 by 50" Act, designed to address the problem of climate change. In addition to this letter, we are writing letters and sending the attached resolution to the President of the U.S., the leaders of both parties in the Senate and House, the Director of the EPA, and the Chairs of all relevant committees. This is an extremely important issue for the Society, as we know it is for you, especially because of the social consequences for the planet if the problem is not addressed quickly and vigorously.

Attached is a resolution approved by the membership of the SSSP at its most recent Annual Meeting. The resolution states, in part, "global climate change is due to human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation that have caused a dramatic increase in the levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere ..." While there is ample and incontrovertible evidence for the problem, the good news is that if human beings created the problem, human beings can fix it. However, as indicated in a new report issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, the leading United Nations consortium of researchers studying the speed and scope of human-caused temperature rise, the need to move more quickly has never been greater. The report, authored by researchers and editors from forty countries, citing more than 6,000 scientific references, calls for aggressive steps to reduce dramatically our reliance on fossil fuels. The SSSP joins many other organizations in urging us to move rapidly toward "a renewable energy economy [that] can—with the right policies in place—be the source of large numbers of new, well-paying jobs that will reinvigorate local economies."

Please indicate receipt of this letter and resolution, and share with us any ideas you have on how else we can help to move the country, and world, in a more sustainable direction.

Sincerely,

Héctor L. Delgado, Ph.D.  
Executive Officer

Enclosure