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**Higher Education Carbon Pricing Endorsement Initiative**

Our Climate is seeking endorsements from college and university presidents in support of carbon pricing, as an effective and pragmatic solution to climate change. Putting a price on carbon would create a powerful incentive for individuals, communities, businesses, and investors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a clean energy economy.

The campaign, led by the non-profit [Our Climate](http://www.ourclimate.us/) and the National Geographic series [Years of Living Dangerously](http://yearsoflivingdangerously.com/), works with student leaders across the country to build support for carbon pricing, and elevates the importance of the policy through film, celebrity endorsements, and social media.

The letters will be shared with state and federal lawmakers, the higher education community, and the public to garner support for carbon pricing at the state and local level. To sign on, please visit [www.ourclimate.us/higher\_ed\_initiative](http://www.ourclimate.us/higher_ed_initiative).

**Endorsement Letter**

*As leaders of higher education institutions, we call upon our elected representatives to act collectively on behalf of current and future generations by putting a price on carbon. We work to prepare our students for thriving futures, over which climate change casts a dark shadow of uncertainty. Putting a price on carbon pollution is an indispensable step we can take to effectively combat climate change.*

*Carbon pricing creates an economy-wide incentive to reduce greenhouse gases in economically efficient ways that can, if revenues are used wisely, benefit low-income households while stimulating job growth. The World Bank has endorsed carbon pricing as a way to accurately account for the external costs of emissions, like crop loss, flood damage, and medical treatments that result from heat waves and other climate change disasters. Thousands of businesses support carbon pricing for its transparent and predictable approach.*

*Dozens of countries and jurisdictions across the world have already enacted carbon pricing mechanisms, and the evidence is in: carbon pricing enables renewable energy to flourish, helps phase out polluting energy sources, and lowers emissions. A strong carbon price will rise quickly enough to work without burdening low-income and middle-class families, and won’t create new dependencies on profits from carbon-based energy.*

*It is time for the United States to lead on this defining issue of our time, and protect the health and well-being of current and future generations. By making carbon-intensive industries pay a fair share of the costs of their pollution, we will have cleaner air and healthier communities, and prevent the most devastating effects of climate change. We therefore ask our elected officials to proactively work to enact a carbon price on the state and national level.*

Please email Page Atcheson at page@ourclimate.us with any questions.

**Signers**

**Leadership Circle Members**

Leon Botstein, President, Bard College

Robert Goldberg, Interim President, Barnard College

Mariko Silver, President, Bennington College

Dianne Harrison, President, California State University Northridge

Gayle E. Hutchinson, President, California State University Chico

Robert S. Nelsen, President, California State University Sacramento

Greg P. Smith, President, Central Community College Nebraska

David Finegold, President, Chatham University

Brian W. Casey, President, Colgate University

Katherine Bergeron, President, Connecticut College

Neil Weissman, Interim President, Dickinson College

Lee Pelton, President, Emerson College

Marco Valera, Fordham University

Daniel R. Porterfield, Ph. D, President, Franklin and Marshall College

Robert Allen, President, Green Mountain College

Kim Benston, President, Haverford College

Lewis E. Thayne, President, Lebanon Valley College

Jo Ann Rooney, President, Loyola University Chicago

Brian Rosenberg, President, Macalester College

Sonya Stephens, Acting President, Mount Holyoke College

John I. Williams, Jr., President, Muhlenberg College

Melvin Oliver, President, Pitzer College

David Oxtoby, President, Pomona College

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Jon Chenette, Interim President, Vassar College

Paula A. Johnson, President, Wellesley College

Michael S. Roth, President, Wesleyan University

**Additional Signatories**

Benedictine University

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Amherst College

Susquehanna University