



March 22, 2017

Mr. G. David Banks  
Special Assistant to the President for International Energy and Environment  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear David,

Thank you for your recent inquiry regarding ExxonMobil's views on the 2015 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 21 Paris Agreement.

As you may be aware, ExxonMobil supports the Paris Agreement as an effective framework for addressing the risks of climate change. We welcomed the Paris Agreement when it was announced in December 2015, and again when it came into force in November 2016. We have reiterated our support on several occasions in opinion pieces and blog posts, most recently by our Chairman and CEO, Darren Woods.<sup>1</sup>

Unlike the Kyoto Agreement, the Paris Agreement is the first major international accord to address climate change that includes emissions reduction pledges from both developed and developing economies. This is critical, as developing (non-OECD) countries already account for a majority of greenhouse gas emissions, with China the world's leading greenhouse gas emitter, and India likely to surpass the U.S. as the second largest greenhouse gas emitter before mid-century.

We believe that the United States is well positioned to compete within the framework of the Paris Agreement, with abundant low-carbon resources such as natural gas, and innovative private industries, including the oil, gas and petrochemical sectors.

**Natural Gas:**

In the past decade, the United States has seen a significant increase in the use of natural gas in our power sector. When used in this way, natural gas is the cleanest-burning and least carbon-intensive fossil fuel. Greater natural gas utilization has helped the United States achieve 20-year lows in CO2 emissions and according to the U.S. Energy

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<sup>1</sup> <https://energyfactor.exxonmobil.com/perspectives/the-future-of-energy-opportunities-and-challenges/>

Information Administration has prevented 1 billion metric tons of CO2 from being emitted into the atmosphere since 2005.

This success can be replicated globally if all available energy sources and technologies are given equitable treatment under country specific climate policies. It is prudent that the United States remain a party to the Paris Agreement to ensure a level playing field, so that global energy markets remain as free and competitive as possible.

**Cost-Effective Policy and Free Markets:**

Ensuring that parties to the Paris Agreement remain focused on pursuing the most cost effective options will help ensure that finite financial resources are managed wisely and not wasted<sup>2</sup>. A level playing field is important in order to achieve economic growth and poverty reduction at the lowest cost to society. The long-term nature of the climate change challenge will see an evolution of available solutions as knowledge expands, technology advances, and markets adapt. Therefore, the United States should advocate for policies that promote innovation and flexibility afforded by competition and free markets to help ensure the world pursues the most cost-effective opportunities to meet people's energy needs and reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

**Technology & Innovation:**

As a global issue, addressing the risks of climate change requires broad-based, practical solutions around the world. At ExxonMobil we are working to help create the scientific, technological, and engineering solutions that the risks of climate change will require. The Paris Agreement recognizes the important role of "carbon sinks" in helping to manage greenhouse gasses globally. ExxonMobil believes that broad-based deployment of cost-effective carbon capture and storage (CCS) holds significant potential, and is one of the most important next-generation low-greenhouse gas emissions technologies. We are investing heavily in CCS, including research in a novel technology that uses fuel cells that could make CCS more affordable and expand its use. We are also researching advanced biofuels, including biofuels made from algae – a potentially game-changing energy source that would place less stress on food supplies, land, and fresh water than traditional biofuels while reducing emissions. All told, we've invested \$7 billion to develop lower-emission energy solutions during the past decade and a half.

Thank you for the opportunity to reiterate ExxonMobil's support for the United States remaining a party to the Paris Agreement.

Yours sincerely,



Peter W. Trefenberg

<sup>2</sup> <http://cdn.exxonmobil.com/~media/global/files/outlook-for-energy/2017/2017-outlook-for-energy.pdf>