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October 31, 2019

We, the undersigned, call on you, as leaders of the largest fire insurance companies in the U.S., to take responsibility for your companies' role in the climate crisis that is creating the conditions for the wildfires across California by taking immediate action to stop insuring and investing in fossil fuels.

We are representatives of communities across California -- as well as local and regional environmental organizations and elected officials -- that are concerned about climate change increasing the risk of wildfires in California, and the willingness of insurance companies to abandon our local communities while continuing to support industries that are driving the climate crisis.

With the onset of the 2019 wildfire season, many homeowners in at-risk areas have seen their insurance rates increase or have received non-renewals. According to the California Department of Insurance, nearly 350,000 homeowners have received non-renewal notices in just the past four years and policyholders in zip codes affected by the 2015 and 2017 fires saw the rate of non-renewals increase by 10%.^{1 2}

Your companies have known about the risks of climate change for decades and scientists are telling us that climate change is causing longer wildfire seasons with bigger and more destructive fires. Yet even now, as we are experiencing the impacts of climate change, you continue to do business with the fossil fuel companies that are causing the conditions that make these fires so devastating and costly.

It is hypocritical to drop homeowners' policies while continuing to support fossil fuel companies. We are calling on you to protect our communities by becoming a part of the solution to the climate crisis by ending your insurance coverage of, and investments in, fossil fuels.

¹ <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article234161407.html>

² http://www.insurance.ca.gov/0400-news/0100-press-releases/2019/upload/nr063_factsheetwildfire.pdf

We know that your companies can do better. In the past two years, 17 international insurers have adopted policies to address climate change by limiting their insurance coverage for fossil fuels and over 20 have divested.³ This summer, Chubb became the first major U.S. insurance company to adopt a coal policy restricting new insurance of, and investment in, coal projects and companies and AXIS Capital recently followed with a policy to limit underwriting and investments in coal and tar sands.^{4 5} There is no reason for you not to do the same, and every reason to step up as leaders in the face of this crisis.

We hope you will recognize the opportunity for leadership and take decisive action for the future of our local communities and our planet.

Elected Officials

Heidi Harmon, Mayor, City of San Luis Obispo
Joan Hartmann, Supervisor, 3rd District Santa Barbara County
Mike Bonin, City Councilmember, City of Los Angeles
Mikke Pierson, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Malibu
Rachel Hundley, City Councilmember, City of Sonoma

Organizations, Businesses, and Individuals

350 Bay Area
350 Butte County
350 Colorado
350 Placer
350 Seattle
350 Sonoma
350.org
Albert Walker, Owner, Walker Design
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Andy Lucas, Business Representative, Lake County Community Development Services
Center for Biological Diversity
Climate Hawks Vote
Cloverdale Indivisible
Connecticut Citizen Action Group
Consumer Watchdog
Courage Campaign
East Bay Climate Action Network
Faithful America
Fossil Free California

³ <https://unfriendcoal.com/coal-insurance/>

⁴ <https://www.chubb.com/us-en/about-chubb/chubb-coal-policy.aspx>

⁵ <https://axiscapital.com/emea/who-we-are/corporate-citizenship-at-axis/coal-policy>

Friends of the Earth U.S.
Greenpeace US
Indigenous Environmental Network
Lisa Heisinger, COO, Boisset Collection
Local Care for Local Elders
Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center
No Coal in Oakland
Oil Change International
Orinda Progressive Action Alliance
Rainforest Action Network
SanDiego350
Sierra Club
SoCal 350
Stand.earth
Sunflower Alliance
Sunrise Movement Bay Area
Sunrise Movement Chico
Sustainable Rossmoor
Sustainable Walnut Creek
The Sunrise Project
Waterkeeper Alliance