

**Local
Government
Advisory
Committee**



Hon. Bob Dixon, Chairman
Greensburg, Kansas

DEC 18 2013

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The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

The Local Government Advisory Committee appreciates the opportunity to work with you and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on a wide variety of issues of interest and concern to local governments. In light of the significant role, the EPA has been assigned through the President's Climate Action Plan of June 25, 2013, the LGAC stands ready to assist and support EPA in its work implementing the plan.

As local government leaders, we share your commitment to reducing pollution and building our adaptive capacity for responding to climate change. As you are aware, many communities have been leaders in successfully inhibiting the local impacts of climate change. The Climate Action Plan and the EPA's role there in reaffirms the Administration's support for action through partnerships among all levels of government.

One of the most notable and welcome components of the plan is the creation of a State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience. We are indeed honored that three LGAC members have been appointed to the Task Force: **Mayor Ralph Becker, Salt Lake City, Utah; Supervisor Salud Carbajal, Santa Barbara County, California ; and Mayor Bob Dixon, Greensburg, Kansas.** We applaud the Administration's decision to include local and tribal leaders on the Task Force to better support local preparedness and resilience-building efforts.

By promoting growth in America's clean energy industries, we can help revive our local economies by creating new, green jobs and lowering energy costs for consumers. These efforts will assist small communities and those with large health and socioeconomic disparities to improve their infrastructure systems to address the impact of climate change.

The EPA's role in the Climate Action Plan is important, and we are eager to work with you as the agency moves forward with its directives, including the development of new carbon pollution standards for both new and existing power plants. We hope that the EPA builds upon the leadership of state and local governments as the agency develops new standards and considers innovative technologies and energy sources. As the LGAC, we encourage the EPA to strongly consider alternative solutions that are developed in collaboration with local and tribal leaders. Locally-based solutions in partnership with EPA can be most effective in optimizing results.

The Climate Action Plan represents a vital step forward in protecting our environment from the impacts of climate change. Just as important as protecting our environment is protecting the public health of our nation and our children (one of our most vulnerable populations). With a rising number of health disparities among susceptible populations and the cumulative risks that these groups may face by the effects of climate change, we must take action to protect our nation and its most vulnerable. The EPA's public health mission should remain front and center.

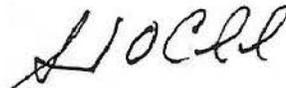
In preparing our communities for the consequences of climate change, we still have a long way to go. This plan is a first step in finding solutions to the myriad problems associated with a changing climate, such as increased ocean acidification and more unpredictable weather events.

Protecting our nation against climate change requires a partnership between federal, state, tribal, and local governments. As local governments, we are often at the frontlines of environmental protection. We have the local expertise and on-the-ground knowledge of what works in our communities. We look forward to working with you in finding innovative ways to reduce carbon pollution and adapt to climate change.

Sincerely,



Mayor Bob Dixon
Chair, LGAC



Supervisor Salud Carbajal
Chair, Air, Climate & Energy Workgroup