

## **Real U.S. Leadership on Climate Change - the United States Climate Alliance National Governors Association (NGA) Side-Event**

Location: Providence, Rhode Island, TBD on margins of NGA Summer Meeting

Date: Friday, July 14 or Saturday, July 15, 2017

**Context:** Following the Trump Administration's June 1, 2017 announcement of their intent to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement, multiple efforts have galvanized demonstrating continued commitment to the Agreement and ambitious climate action. The leading efforts are:

- [United States Climate Alliance](#): United States Climate Alliance (USCA) is a bipartisan group of states committed to upholding the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate change within their borders, by achieving the U.S. goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions 26–28% from 2005 levels by 2025 and meeting or exceeding the targets of the federal Clean Power Plan. The Alliance also forms a forum for its members to further develop and strengthen their existing Climate Action Plans through sharing of information and best practices. The 13 members of the Alliance as of June 29, 2017, made up 30.6% of the U.S. population and 35.9% of U.S. GDP as of 2016, and accounted for 18.2% of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions in 2014.
- [WeAreStillIn](#): We Are Still In (WASI) is the broadest cross-sectional platform of the US real economy in pursuit of climate action and clean energy. Over 2,000 strong and growing, the platform will work to coordinate climate action across sectors, rally allies and resources to existing in-sector efforts, and provide assurance to the international community that leaders from across America's state houses, city halls, board rooms, and college campuses stand by the Paris Agreement and are committed to meeting its goals. 9 Governors are currently committed to WASI.
- [The Under2 Coalition](#) is a diverse group of governments around the world who set ambitious targets to combat climate change. Central to the Under2 MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) is an agreement from all signatories to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions 80 to 95 percent below 1990 levels, or limit to 2 annual metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent per capita, by 2050. A total of 176 jurisdictions spanning 36 countries and six continents have signed or endorsed the Under2 MOU. Collectively, the Under2 Coalition represents 1.2 billion people and \$28.8 trillion in GDP – equivalent to 16 percent of the global population and 39 percent of the global economy.

**Purpose:** Membership in these groups is somewhat overlapping but also not completely aligned, yet there is ample opportunity to recruit additional Governors to join one or more of the existing initiatives and capitalize on the Governor's convening at the NGA. The purpose of the side-event at NGA is to provide a forcing event to compel action from Governors to join USCA one or more of the initiatives.

**Messaging:** We intend to frame the NGA side-event broadly around States evincing the mantle of US climate leadership, with a focus on having them join the USCA. With this topline message, Governors can step forward and speak positively to the topline message from the unique perspective of their State. Each Governor can highlight whichever platforms they're joining as appropriate. The threshold for Governors interested in speaking at the event would be that they need to have signed on to the USCA - with priority given to new joiners.

### Potential Message Frame:

- The US has a long tradition of leading the way on important public health, economic, national security and global issues -- we have an obligation to take action to address climate change.

- In lieu of federal leadership Governors are stepping up to take the mantle of US climate leadership and making best efforts to meet the level of ambition set out in the US target - namely cutting emissions by 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2025.
- States have a broad base of support from other non-state actors [businesses and industry, cities, Universities, Investors and others].
- Today State X is joining [US Climate Alliance] to do our part in keeping America's promise to take ambitious action on climate change and support the international regime put in place by the Paris Agreement on climate change.
- States have the tools and wherewithal to deliver on their commitments - and we will.

**Ideal Run of Show:**

- Gov Riamando (RI) kicks off as host
- US Climate Alliance Gov [Jerry Brown/Inslee/Cuomo]
- Gov Wolf (PA) joining USCA/WASI
- Gov Hogan (MD) joining USCA/WASI
- Gov Hickenlooper (CO) joining USCA/WASI/Under2
- Gov Bullock (MT) joining USCA
- [Gov Baker (MA) joining WASI]
- [Gov Ige (HI) joining Under2]
- [Gov Scott (VT) joining WASI]
- VA/DE/LA others?

**Current Membership by State with Target States**

Party	State	US Climate Alliance	Under 2	WeAreStillIn
D	CA	Yes	Yes	Yes
D	CT	Yes	Yes	Yes
D	NY	Yes	Yes	Yes
D	OR	Yes	Yes	Yes
D	RI	Yes	Yes	Yes
D	WA	Yes	Yes	Yes
R	MA	Yes	Yes	
D	MN	Yes	Yes	
R	VT	Yes	Yes	
R	NH		Yes	
D	HI	Yes		Yes
D	VA	Yes		Yes
D	NC			Yes

D	DE	Yes		
D	PR	Yes		
D	DC			Yes
D	PA			
R	MD			
R	NV			
D	CO			
R	OH			
D	LA			
D	MT			