

From: Ricketts, Sam (GOV)
To: [Davis, Chris \(GOV\)](#), [Aimee Barnes the need for continued US part](#)
Subject: RE: Follow up email on Paris letter 摺 鋸 鋸 鋸 policy, comms, na
AttachmentList: 4

Aimee, my apologies, as well, for the delayed response. I wanted Chris to chime in first. (Chris, meet the underside of this here bus; bus, this is Chris ;)

Thank you very much for your work putting together the Paris letter and recruiting signers. Like Chris said, it wouldn't have happened without you. And I do think (and hope) its helped make a positive impact.

I too like your letter below. I think it hits precisely the right tone and does will to identify the buckets of activities/necessary support functions that all of our states could use to collectively to push climate action at the state, national and international levels together. I think it proceeds directly from the Govs' Paris letter, so I also like the idea of replying to that email chain. Nobody who was part of that is gonna want to be left behind on this next exciting group effort! But also, we should make a targeted effort to see if we cant attract Mass and VT, and maybe others from the GOP side. It's a stretch - but with a major dividend. And they might be more inclined if we start out as a small group of 2-3 states approaching them, rather than a behemoth list of D governors pressuring one or two of them to join us. I guess what Im saying is lets send them a similar note.

I agree also with Chris that each state is gonna put a different amount of effort into an initiative like this - and that that's ok. And I don't think it gets far without CA's energy, expertise and leadership, so also don't have any issue with yall pressing the conversation forward.

As regards a Govs Climate Alliance, generally, Ive oscillated for and against the idea, since Nov, but ultimately found myself in the "pro" column for precisely the arguments you outline below. Ever since, my main point of emphasis, as Ive (somewhat obnoxiously) inconsistently inserted myself into these deliberative conversations, is that there hasn't yet appeared to be one group or proposal that readily captures all of the buckets of activity that you outline below. Theres of course a plethora of advocate and funder interest, a leadership vacuum from the feds, and a voracious appetite at home and abroad, for this sort of governors' initiative. But each of the outside group comers so far seems to be really strong in an area or two (policy, comms, national strategy, knowledge or int'l process, rolodex, sufficient funder support, etc), but short in the others.

So that leads me to think that we should pull together an initial coalition of the willing (or most eager) states, to decide for ourselves the universe of activities in which we'll engage together (and I think you begin to summarize that very well below), and the structure that will assist that. And from there we can approach the different groups (G'town, Rhodium, UNF, whomever) about which of them will play a roll. We may have to broker peace or force

collaboration, but surely the collective interest can prevail. And after all, if not us - who?

Anyway, that's my \$0.02. Maybe we can discuss in DC this week. Thanks for putting this together, and for the great continued partnership.

From: Davis, Chris (GOV)
Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 1:01 AM
To: Aimee Barnes; Ricketts, Sam (GOV)
Subject: RE: Follow up email on Paris letter

Hey Aimee

This deserved a quicker response --- apologies on my end. Thanks for you nice words; they're appreciated but we certainly made that happen only with your help. Glad we got it out. There was some good coverage.

I agree with your conclusion and the letter only underscored what we've been discussing. However I also think that anything we might help coalesce will continue to require special leadership from us to spur on. The model could evolve – and I believe states will appreciate CA making room for others – but I'm fairly certain that there will inevitably be some states more able/willing to do more, instigate more, take on more and others who will play but not lend the same initiative. And this would be fine. States can self select if we create the space to make that happen. SO I think your letter is a good idea and sets the right tone. I'm happy to work with you to facilitate the discussion or to simply harmonize at the right moment.

Thanks for taking this step.

Chris

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From: Aimee Barnes [<mailto:Aimee.Barnes@GOV.CA.GOV>]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 1:00 PM
To: Davis, Chris (GOV) <chris.davis@gov.wa.gov>; Ricketts, Sam (GOV) <Sam.Ricketts@gov.wa.gov>
Subject: Follow up email on Paris letter

Hi guys,

Thanks so much for all your leadership and hustle on getting the Paris letter out earlier this week. It definitely would not have happened without you both.

I have been thinking about the Governor's Climate Alliance thing, and talking with Rick and Hewlett. My sense (I think you guys have already been here for a while... what can I say, I'm slow) is that it doesn't work as configured in their proposal, but that we do have a need for more capacity than we have at present--it can't always be us staff running around trying to corral each other for sign on, and that we could also use some help both with horizon-scanning for potential challenges and thinking more strategically about how to broadcast our collective voices internationally.

I drafted an email which I am going to send around to the email chain from the Paris letter to this effect, to see if we can get a call set up next week to discuss whether and how we might all collaborate either through existing or new mechanisms on these issues. See below and let me know what you think. I'm sensitive to not wanting to be the 800 pound Californian gorilla, but I do think based on the Paris letter experience that we could use a little more help, and it doesn't make sense for any one of our states to necessarily be the main driver, although we all have to have a stake in it.

As always, I'd be grateful for your frank feedback and am glad to be working side by side on the good fight. :)

Happy Friday,
Aimee

Dear all,

I am grateful for and proud of our Governors' statement on the need for continued US participation in the Paris Agreement earlier this week, and for the leadership of everyone on this email chain for making it happen. No doubt there will be many more occasions in the coming months and years that will benefit from our Governors' strong voices on climate change.

This is not an issue of partisanship, but of principles. As our letter clearly stated, climate change is an existential threat to our states, our economies, and the health and prosperity of our citizens. In California, we would be keen to explore with you all the idea of continued, targeted coordination to speak with one positive and proactive voice on climate concerns.

My sense is that there are three areas we might initially consider:

- 1) Coordination directly amongst and between our Governors' offices, and communications support to project our Governors' voices nationally and internationally on climate change, specifically to make clear that we intend to continue US leadership on climate action and that we continue to stand with others across the country and around the world that seek to do the same;
- 2) Analytical support for our Governors' offices to understand what the collective impact of our states' clean energy and climate change efforts amount to, whether and how this can stopgap flagging national ambition, esp. in regards to the US Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Accord, and the ability to communicate around that effectively in a way that prevents the disintegration of international climate cooperation; and
- 3) Expert guidance and support for our Governors to engage in international climate processes effectively (according to their level of interest), both to keep the US on target through subnational action to meet our global goals and to ensure that the "architecture" of the Paris Agreement remains intact.

I believe that some of the excellent support we have from existing efforts can help to support these needs, but that additional capacity may also be needed. This additional support could be provided through existing efforts, such as Georgetown, the Under2Coalition, etc., or through a new one. We are fortunate that at the moment there are many resources keen to be at our disposal to support us further, but in order to make best use of them, we need to tell them what we need. Many of us have already begun to discuss these needs with various experts and organizations, but I do not think this is a question any one state can or should answer for the others.

I would be keen to know whether you all would be interested in discussing how we organize and resource ourselves for the opportunities that will inevitably be presented to continue our strong subnational leadership on a low-carbon future together in the next few years.

If you all agree, I would propose that we organize a call amongst us all in the near future to discuss this question. I assume this email list represents essentially the set of key officials/experts in our respective Governors' offices on climate issues, but please flag anyone who may be missing. If you are not interested in participating please say so—no offense taken. And to be clear, California is happy to facilitate the initial conversations but we feel strongly that all Governors' offices should feel equal ownership if this is to succeed.

As we look to the potential announcement out of the White House next week on Paris withdrawal, and other efforts to dismantle federal US climate leadership, the leadership of our Governors at the state level is more relevant now than ever. Thanks all for your time and consideration, and I hope we are able to chart a path forward on climate collaboration together in the near future.

--Aimee

Service Center, which helps resettle refugees. The organization initially helped resettle Jewish refugees and now serves refugees from all walks of life. Washington is home to a