

December 7, 2020

Joseph Biden
President-Elect

Kamala Harris
Vice-President Elect

RE: Reject Fred Hochberg for U.S. Trade Representative and Other Key Administration Positions

Dear President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris:

We congratulate you on your election as the 46th President of the United States. We commend your commitment to provide international leadership on climate issues including integrating climate change into our foreign policy agenda, adopting a climate-smart approach to trade, and pursuing an end to fossil fuel subsidies globally. Such leadership is a prerequisite to rebuilding an economy at home and abroad that supports sustainable communities, climate resilience, and a just and equitable future. For these reasons we oppose the appointment of former Export-Import Bank (EXIM) President and Chairman Fred Hochberg for U.S. Trade Representative and other key positions in your administration.

As President and Chairman of EXIM between 2009 and 2016, Fred Hochberg presided over the largest expansion of fossil fuel subsidies in the agency's 86 year history, almost three times more support than EXIM provided during George W Bush's two terms. During this time Hochberg approved almost \$34 billion for over 70 fossil fuel projects abroad, which EXIM estimates will emit over 164 million metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere annually. This massive growth in fossil fuel financing occurred despite the fact that the international community was increasingly alarmed about catastrophic impacts of climate change and the counterproductive role of fossil fuel subsidies.

Fossil fuel projects that Hochberg shepherded to approval include:

- Liquid natural gas plants built inside the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area which pollute local fisheries and the Coral Sea marine ecosystem with dredging waste.
- The corruption-ridden Kusile coal plant in South Africa, the subject of a recent South African investigation involving contracts between the country's energy utility, Eskom, and EXIM's client, the U.S. firm Black & Veatch. EXIM financing for Kusile proceeded despite objections expressed to Hochberg by leading health experts at Physicians for Social Responsibility and Harvard Medical School due to anticipated coal plant pollution impacts on human health, including heart disease, cancer, stroke, and chronic lower respiratory diseases, and premature death.
- The Sasan coal plant and mine in India, whose lack of adequate safety measures resulted in a rate of fatalities so high that EXIM Bank's Office of Inspector General was compelled to investigate and recommend remedial action, which in turn failed to prevent subsequent deadly accidents, including an ash pond dam that burst earlier this year, leading to a toxic flood killing six people, including two children.

Your Presidency must set a new course in foreign policy, including one that creates environmentally and economically sustainable jobs at home and abroad, and protects the climate, local environments and communities. Given his record of support for fossil fuel expansion world-wide and for deadly, polluting,

and corruption-inducing projects, we urge you to reject Fred Hochberg for U.S. Trade Representatives and other key administration positions.

Sincerely,

350 Butte County

350 Humboldt

350 Silicon Valley

350Hawaii

Amazon Watch

Athens County's Future Action Network

BioLogical Pest Management Inc.

Call to Action CO

Catholic Network US

Center for Biological Diversity

Center for International Environmental Law
(CIEL)

Center for Sustainable Economy

Diálogo 2000-Jubileo Sur Argentina

Earth Action, Inc.

Earth Guardians

EcoEquity

Food & Water Watch

Friends of the Earth U.S.

Greenpeace

Hawaii Sustainable Lifestyle Network

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy
Program

John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute

Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network

Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

MassSolar

Movement for Advancing Understanding on
Sustainability And Mutuality (MAUSAM)

New York Communities for Change

No Kill Magazine

Nuclear Information and Resource Service (anti-
nuclear)

Oil Change International

Organic Consumers Association

Our Revolution Hawaii

Pacific Environment

Peace Action

Peninsula Interfaith Climate Action

Rainforest Action Network

Rapid Shift Network

SoCal 350 Climate Action

Sunrise Project US

Texas Campaign for the Environment

The Revolving Door Project

Veterans For Peace: Climate Crisis Working
Group