

DEAR PRIME MINISTER

Your commitment to make climate change the nuclear-free moment of your generation has the power to inspire a nation, and indeed the world. We are calling on you to turn this passion into action, by taking bold and decisive measures to protect our future and our children’s future.

Together, we pledge support for the New Zealand Government to end oil and gas exploration now, as a vital step in addressing climate change.

We must apply our ambition, ingenuity, and courage to hasten the transition to a stable and resilient society, powered by clean energy.

The climate science is clear. If we are to avoid catastrophic impacts, the world cannot afford to burn even existing reserves of fossil fuels, let alone seek out and burn new reserves.

Climate change is an existential threat, posing grave danger to our health, homes, communities, food security, culture and livelihoods, as well as the wildlife and wild places with which we share this Earth.

Climate change is an injustice that disproportionately affects our neighbours and kin in the Pacific, developing nations, indigenous people, people of colour, women and poorer working people. These are also the people who are least responsible for causing this crisis.

But the steps we take to address this threat also provide us with opportunities to move towards a more just and equal society, to boost innovation and employment, create more resilient communities, improve our health, and live in better balance with nature.

Now is the time to back the booming clean energy industries, and invite the transformational economic opportunities that shifting to a low-carbon society can bring. This must be a just transition - one that fairly distributes the costs and benefits across the economy and provides opportunities for those affected to actively engage in determining the future wellbeing of themselves and their families.

More than ever, the world needs bold leadership. We wholeheartedly support your ambition for New Zealand to be at the forefront of this planetary challenge. Not only can we live without fossil fuels, but we must. If our small nation can again inspire the world, as we did in our stand against nuclear weapons, then we would earn our place on the right side of history. Ending the development of new oil, gas and coal now, is vital to that success.

YOURS SINCERELY

Sir Alan Mark
FRSNZ, KNZM, Chair, Wise Response Society NZ

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CNZM, Former Co-Leader, Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand

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Former Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

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ONZM, Actor

Tiki Taane
Musical Activist

Robyn Malcolm
NZ Actress

Peter Lange
MNZM, Potter

Dame Jane Campion
DNZM, Screenwriter, Producer, Director

Taika Waititi
Director, Screenwriter, New Zealander of the Year 2017

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Columnist/Journalist

Rebecca Macfie
Journalist

Sharon Murdoch
Cartoonist

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Victoria University of Wellington climate scientist

Prof Ralph Sims
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Climate change scientist

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