

Secretary Hillary Clinton  
1 Pierrepont Plaza  
Brooklyn Heights, NY 11201

October 15, 2016

Dear Secretary Clinton,

As the Democratic presidential nominee, you have taken commendable positions on climate change, supporting democratic participation, common sense oil and gas regulation, overturning regulatory loopholes carved out by the fossil fuel lobby, and the importance of protecting health and safety of vulnerable communities.

**We are asking you to re-affirm the urgency of addressing climate change and the necessity of protecting people from fossil fuel extraction by appointing to your cabinet proven climate champions independent of industry allegiance or control.** We can not afford cabinet appointees who have spent their careers in the pocket of exploitative and polluting corporate interests. Candidates must accept the scientific consensus on the impact of fossil fuel extraction and use.

Because we must protect communities and the climate by keeping at least 80% of the world's proven fossil fuels in the ground, the appointment of Secretary of Interior is critical. The Secretary of the Interior will have a crucial role in moving the federal leasing program in-line with our broader national climate goals, recognizing that state and regional Bureau of Land Management offices cannot remain unchecked. It will require surveying the entire program and changing the culture of this federal agency so that it serves future generations, not just fossil fuel interests.

The reason we are writing you today is in response to media reports that Governor Hickenlooper is being considered for appointment as your Secretary of Interior. Governor Hickenlooper actively opposes key environmental positions that you support, and has a history of siding with the fossil fuel industry over the people who elected him.

Governor Hickenlooper opposes community control over oil and gas operations, going as far as to [sue communities trying to protect their air and water from being poisoned by oil and gas waste.](#)

Further, Governor Hickenlooper publicly opposes the restoration of the rights of communities to vote on oil and gas resource exploitation occurring around them.

As this letter is being written, Denver, Boulder, and the surrounding communities are choking on dangerous levels of ozone and smog pollution, which have been directly linked to shale drilling and fracking.

We know that personnel is policy. This country deserves public officials who put people first and are free of ties to fossil fuel corporations that damage our climate.

At the Department of Interior and all levels of administration, we need leaders who will champion the protection of human health and the environment. Governor Hickenlooper is not that person.

Respectfully,

Colorado Rising  
350 Colorado  
Frack Free Colorado  
Greenpeace USA  
350.org  
Rainforest Action Network  
Oil Change International  
Environmental Action  
WildEarth Guardians  
Friends of the Earth Action  
Climate Hawks Vote