

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2013

Mr. Alejandro Sanz
Madrid, Spain

Dear Alejandro:

Thank you for writing. Few challenges are more urgent than climate change, and I appreciate hearing your concerns. The Arctic region holds some of the world's most precious resources, and we all have a stake in their protection and preservation.

My Administration remains committed to addressing climate change. This summer, I announced my Climate Action Plan, which builds upon steps I have taken since the beginning of my Presidency to cut carbon pollution and prepare for the impacts of climate change. We have a moral obligation to future generations to confront this challenge, and by taking a steady, responsible approach to cut carbon pollution we can ensure that we leave our children a healthier planet.

But America cannot combat carbon emissions alone. That is why my Administration has led multilateral and bilateral efforts to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and advanced international climate negotiations. This includes a September 6 expression of support from G-20 leaders to use the expertise and institutions of the Montreal Protocol to phase down climate-damaging hydrofluorocarbons, a highly potent greenhouse gas. New joint efforts to reduce greenhouse gas pollution have been launched with China and India.

I recognize that the Arctic plays a critical role in our efforts to take action on climate change—a fact you saw firsthand. This May, I signed the National Strategy for the Arctic Region, which acknowledges the region's importance and outlines actions to protect it from further harm. The National Strategy unifies Federal efforts across a broad range of priorities: pursuing responsible Arctic region stewardship, strengthening international cooperation, and advancing America's security interests. Its guiding principles include safeguarding peace and stability, coordinating with local groups, and making informed, responsible decisions about this region with the future in mind.

Thank you, again, for writing. Please know I value your perspective and your dedication to ensuring this invaluable ecosystem remains stable and protected for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style.