

September 16th, 2013

Barack Obama

President of the United States of America

Dear President Obama,

Last July I had the incredible opportunity to travel to the Arctic to bear witness to the severe consequences of climate change in the region. As you know, the Arctic is melting rapidly, putting at risk the lives of the people living there, the fragile ecosystem, and the entire global climate system.

I know that you share these concerns around the Arctic so I am writing to ask you to consider supporting the principles of the “Declaration on the Future of the Arctic”, an initiative that Greenpeace has developed to reflect the collective concern of global civil society about the crisis now engulfing the Arctic region.

The Declaration calls for action to address the twin threats of rapid climate change and unsustainable industrial development. Both carry devastating consequences for Arctic people and environment, but also for the wider international community and future generations. It calls for an end to offshore Arctic oil drilling; for urgent measures to protect fish stocks and the marine environment; and for the creation of a global sanctuary in the uninhabited area around the North Pole.

You can find the full declaration text in the attached document. Our intention is to build an impressive and diverse community of organizations, parliamentarians, civil society and faith groups supporting action to protect the Arctic. The Declaration and its demands will ultimately be presented to world leaders and to the leaders of the Arctic States. We are delighted that Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Nelson Mandela Memory Foundation have become the first individual and the first organization respectively to join us in this new venture.

Also, I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to draw your attention to the petition that more than 100,000 U.S. citizens have signed since July urging you to take the necessary and urgent leap towards a clean energy future and declare Arctic drilling off limits. Stopping extreme drilling in the U.S. Arctic Ocean would have an immense impact around the world, demonstrating true global leadership in tackling climate change.

If you have further questions about the Declaration and our future plans, I would be more than happy to discuss this with you further.

Yours,

Alejandro Sanz