#

**TO: DATE:**

**IPCC REPORT:** “The Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5°C” <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/> was issued in October 2018 by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This group of over 100 scientist authors undertook the 2-year study to assess whether the target 2°C temperature rise above pre-industrial level set in the Paris Agreement was stringent enough, or if warming needed to be kept to 1.5°C. Sadly, the conclusion was that limiting the rise to 2°C would ***not*** be sufficient to avert human catastrophe.

**PRESENTLY**: Human activities, especially those related to fossil fuel emissions, have already raised average global temperatures 1°C above base pre-industrial levels. And we are seeing the consequences of this today: more extreme storms and flooding, and rising sea levels and melting ice cap [which combine to cause loss of life and property]; more frequent heat waves [which kill vulnerable people directly]; chronic, long-duration drought [leading to food shortages in the US and globally, as well as to mass migration, such as from the Middle East and Central America]; large-scale fires [such as in western North America]; increased ocean acidity and ocean oxygen depletion [leading to marine system collapse and causing human food shortages], and species and biodiversity loss [leading to food shortages for humans, and greater risk of disease in vulnerable persons and populations].

We are observing all these consequences today, with just a 1°C rise. The report quantifies the predicted impact of the larger temperature rises. But we can understand logically that an additional 50% or 100% temperature rise would substantially increase the risk to human life and health. And the report also states that, even if we were to cease ALL fossil fuel emissions TODAY, the effects would continue for decades or centuries. This is why news publications have picked up on the fact that it is imperative that we make every effort starting TODAY to draw down our fossil fuel emissions.

**LIMITING TEMPERATURE RISE:** Limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, building, transport, and cities. Human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide would need to fall by about half by 2030, reaching “net zero” by 2050. These targets align well with stated goals of states such as New Jersey and others.

**CARBON PRICING** should be a component of consistent policy packages that include R&D funding, reduction of fossil fuel subsidies, redirecting capital from stranded fossil fuel assets to low emission assets, meaningful regulation (building codes, minimum performance standards), effective planning, and energy efficiency improvements. Carbon pricing must eventually be steep enough to severely dampen demand.

**THE PEOPLE DEMAND**: 70% of people in the US and in NJ are in favor of enacting policies to address climate change. An added bonus of the transition to clean, renewable energy is that virtually all aspects of this transition lead to more, better-paying jobs and a boost to the economy. We agree with the UN General Secretary that this is an “existential threat” to the very next generation of our children or grandchildren, and none of us are exempt because we live in a privileged country. If you fail to act to avert this human catastrophe, then you must accept your part in allowing it to happen. The list of highest-priority actions we ask of you is on the attached page.

SIGNATURE: NAME:

ADDRESS/CITY/STATE: