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Contacts:

Alex Carr, The Climate Registry acarr@theclimateregistry.org

Jennifer Weiss, Climate Action Reserve jennifer@climateactionreserve.org

U.S. States Take Leadership Role, Call for More Ambition at COP25

MADRID, Spain – December 10, 2019 - The Climate Registry (TCR) and the Climate Action Reserve hosted a bipartisan delegation of U.S. states at the 25th Conference of the Parties (COP25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Madrid, Spain. States attending include California, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Washington and Wisconsin. Footage of the official UNFCCC press conference featuring state representatives is available [here](#).

Over the course of several events that showcased state climate action and impact, three themes emerged:

- U.S. states are filling the climate leadership gap left by the federal government;
- U.S. states are collaborating with each other and with other countries, cities and the business community to meet the carbon reduction targets laid out in the Paris Agreement; and,
- U.S. states are calling for more ambitious action in order to prevent the most catastrophic effects of the climate crisis.

“The ideas shared and connections made at COP25 will assist our efforts in making Wisconsin not just a national leader, but a global leader in combatting the effects of climate change,” said **Mandela Barnes, Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin**. “From the time we took office, Governor Tony Evers and I let it be known that science would once again guide policy decisions in Wisconsin. From the creation of the Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy to setting a goal to be carbon-free by 2050, Wisconsin is taking the necessary steps to transition to a cleaner and more just and equitable economy. As Chair of the Governor’s Task Force on Climate Change, I’m honored to lead our state as we work to reach our goals.”

“California is proving that we can reach our ambitious climate goals while achieving record economic growth. Indeed, our strategies to fight climate change are proving to be an economic engine for our state, creating new investment, new jobs and investments for our disadvantaged communities,” said **Jared Blumenfeld, California Secretary for Environmental Protection**. “Governor Newsom is proud to join with the leaders of other states and cities, from across the political spectrum and around the world, to advance ambitious climate action.”



“Maryland is a champion for bipartisan environmental leadership on climate change, locally and globally, urgently and inclusively,” said **Ben Grumbles, Maryland’s Secretary of the Environment**. “On behalf of Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, I am honored to participate in COP25, to help build partnerships in our state, the U. S., and around the world for clean and renewable, resilient and holistic solutions.”

“Every report shows we do not have time to waste when it comes to confronting climate change,” said **California State Senator Bob Wieckowski**. “In the absence of federal leadership, subnationals are taking bold action toward creating a carbon neutral future. Our collective effort will not only lead to a more resilient United States, it will also signal to the rest of the world that we are committed to meeting this challenge and our determination is still strong.”

“Hawaii adds its voice to the alliance of states and others that are raising ambition beyond their nationally determined contributions,” said **Scott Glenn, CEO of the Hawai’i State Energy Office**. “In this blue COP, Hawaii’s voice also echoes the voices of all islands facing the unprecedented and existential effects of climate change. Island Earth needs solutions that make us more resilient and islands are leading the way.”

“The magnitude of climate change and its impact on every aspect in Minnesota requires bold thinking and an integrated response,” said **Tim Sexton, Assistant Commissioner and Chief Sustainability Officer, Office of Sustainability and Public Health, State of Minnesota**. “Being part of the US subnational delegation allows Minnesota to share our state’s efforts to reduce carbon pollution and learn from experts in other states and countries to benefit from ideas and experiences.”

“In the US Climate Alliance, a coalition of US states which in the last year has grown to represent 55% of the US population and more than half the US economy, the world should know it has a committed partner in the fight against climate change,” said **Chris Davis, Senior Policy Advisor, Climate and Energy Affairs in the Governor’s Office, State of Washington**. “Though we continue to push for federal leadership, we will not delay the clean energy transition because the experience of Alliance states is that action equates to jobs and economic growth.”

“California is leading the charge on climate action with a shared vision for the world,” said **California Assemblymember, Eduardo Garcia**. “Climate consequences are happening now and our poorest communities, like those in my district are being hit the hardest. Our groundbreaking policies have set a precedent for climate parity that have put our most environmentally vulnerable regions in the driver’s seat empowering them with the means reclaim their environmental, economic, and public health destiny.”

“The timeline in which we can still take meaningful steps towards adaptation and mitigation in the face of climate change should keep all of us up at night,” said **California Assemblymember, Robert Rivas**. “The economic, health and public costs of inaction and denial is not an option. California has long been a



leader in addressing climate change, but we can and should do more. I'm proud to be a part of California's Assembly delegation to COP25, where I look forward to meeting and collaborating with leaders from around the world to define and commit to taking the steps necessary to secure the future of our communities and economies. The California delegation is committed to being part of the climate solution and we hope to show the world that we remain committed global partners, and we will continue to take action to address this mounting crisis."

"As the Chair of the California Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change, attending the 2019 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is important to furthering our climate leadership," said **California Assemblymember, Cristina Garcia**. "California is participating in COP 25, just like we did in COP 23 to show the world that there is a strong American contingency that firmly believes that climate action is necessary for our future and reaffirms our commitment to addressing the climate crisis with bold actions and inclusive solutions. Climate leadership is a driver of innovation, jobs, and economic growth. States have substantial authority to make climate action, and California has done so, but we need to do more. I look forward to sharing ideas with colleagues from around the world on strong climate action and further community-driven climate action. Strong Climate leadership must ensure that we protect our most vulnerable populations as we plan to preserve our planet. This global crisis affects everyone and we need solutions that do the same. We understand this global crisis requires local action and local action requires a community-centric approach. Community centric action has been a key to California's actions."

"California has a lot to offer and a lot to learn in meeting with our climate change colleagues from around the globe," said **Anthony Rendon, speaker of the California State Assembly**. "The most prosperous state in the U.S. has an important role to play in reversing global climate change. What people do in other countries also affects Californians, down to the level of every neighborhood in my district. That is why I'm proud to have our elected leaders participating again."

"Subnational and private sector leadership is more critical than ever if we're going to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and curb the worst consequences of the climate crisis," said **Amy Holm, Executive Director of The Climate Registry**. "We are honored to be able to provide a platform for U.S. leaders from government and business to show their support for the Paris Agreement and advance climate action."

"There is much work to be done here at COP25, and the stark reality is that failure is not an option," said **Craig Ebert, President of the Climate Action Reserve**. "It's very encouraging to hear from and collaborate with this group of bipartisan U.S. state leaders and representatives from the business, NGO and higher learning sectors. Within their jurisdictions, lines of work and personal lives, they know we need urgent action, and they are prepared to implement bold action. We are honored to continue to be a part of this dialogue and meaningful action."

The TCR-Reserve joint delegation is carbon neutral.



About The Climate Registry

The Climate Registry (TCR) is a non-profit organization governed by U.S. states and Canadian provinces and territories. TCR designs and operates voluntary and compliance greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting programs globally, and assists organizations in measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV) the carbon in their operations so they can manage and reduce it. TCR also builds GHG MRV capacity in sub-national and national governments, and is spearheading innovative new projects such as the Water-Energy Nexus Registry. www.theclimateregistry.org

About the Climate Action Reserve

The Climate Action Reserve is an environmental nonprofit organization that promotes and fosters the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through credible market-based policies and solutions. A pioneer in carbon accounting, the Reserve serves as an approved Offset Project Registry (OPR) for the State of California's Cap-and-Trade Program and also establishes high quality standards for offset projects in the North American voluntary carbon market and operates a transparent, publicly-accessible registry for carbon credits generated under its standards. Drawing from its experience and expertise in GHG accounting, the Reserve launched the Climate Impact Score program to quantify and assess the climate impact of projects financed by investments and the Climate Forward program to foster proactive investment in future GHG reduction projects as a means to address emissions that are forecasted to occur. Additionally, the Reserve hosts the annual North American Carbon World conference, the premier event for climate and carbon professionals to learn, discuss, and network. The Reserve is a private 501(c)3 nonprofit organization headquartered in Los Angeles, California with satellite offices around the U.S. For more information, please visit www.climateactionreserve.org.