



Sept. 5, 2017

To: City Council of Warrensburg, MO.

We, the Johnson County Citizens for Environmental Action, are writing this letter to urge our community and our city to join the 300-plus cities (and UCM See Kansas City Star – June 6, 2017) around the United States who have made the commitment to honor the initiatives and goals of the Paris Climate Accord. This widely accepted global agreement includes participation by 189 of the world's 192 nations. The United States signed the agreement in 2015 but President Trump has since formally withdrawn our nation's participation from the pact.

There is overwhelming scientific evidence that our earth is undergoing rapid changes because of global warming. These changes are currently impacting people, often the most vulnerable, in many parts of the world. Such negative consequences will only grow more frequent and intense unless we, in coordinated, global action, respond quickly and decisively.

Therefore, CEA urges the city of Warrensburg to declare that within its respective jurisdiction, the provisions, intents and goals of the Paris Climate Agreement will be observed and take the actions necessary to meet the agreement's goals. We also ask our educational and other institutions, businesses and agencies to join in this effort and make the necessary plans to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

We, the members of CEA, endorse this request, and we also pledge to reduce our personal greenhouse gas emissions as our part in achieving the commitments previously agreed to by our country. We also urge every member of our greater community to join us in upholding the initiatives and objectives of the Paris Agreement thus helping to make a very important difference for the future of our community, our country, our world.

**Unanimously agreed to and authorized in meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2016
(Sept. 5, 2017 minutes attached)**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vernon Elsberry', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Vernon Elsberry, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Mohler', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Steve Mohler, Treasurer

WE ARE STILL IN

Open letter to the international community and parties to the Paris Agreement from U.S. state, local, and business leaders

We, the undersigned mayors, governors, college and university leaders, businesses, and investors are joining forces for the first time to declare that we will continue to support climate action to meet the Paris Agreement.

In December 2015 in Paris, world leaders signed the first global commitment to fight climate change. The landmark agreement succeeded where past attempts failed because it allowed each country to set its own emission reduction targets and adopt its own strategies for reaching them. In addition, nations - inspired by the actions of local and regional governments, along with businesses - came to recognize that fighting climate change brings significant economic and public health benefits. The Trump administration's announcement undermines a key pillar in the fight against climate change and damages the world's ability to avoid the most dangerous and costly effects of climate change. Importantly, it is also out of step with what is happening in the United States.

In the U.S., it is local and state governments, along with businesses, that are primarily responsible for the dramatic decrease in greenhouse gas emissions in recent years. Actions by each group will multiply and accelerate in the years ahead, no matter what policies Washington may adopt.

In the absence of leadership from Washington, states, cities, colleges and universities, businesses and investors, representing a sizeable percentage of the U.S. economy will pursue ambitious climate goals, working together to take forceful action and to ensure that the U.S. remains a global leader in reducing emissions. It is imperative that the world know that in the U.S., the actors that will provide the leadership necessary to meet our Paris commitment are found in city halls, state capitals, colleges and universities, investors and businesses. Together, we will remain actively engaged with the international community as part of the global effort to hold warming to well below 2°C and to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy that will benefit our security, prosperity, and health.

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[About 'We Are Still In' and related efforts](#)

[Click here to read the full We Are Still In Press Release — 06/05/2017](#)

Companies, investors, mayors and governors wishing to add their name to the statement can do so by registering [here](#). Colleges and universities wishing to add their name can do so by registering [here](#).

<http://www.wearestillin.com/>



CEA Minutes: 9/5/17

Present: Steve Mohler, Mark Pearce, Vern Elsberry, John Hess, Aubrey Binder, Angela Palmer, Karen Williamson, Chris Edmondson, Jane VanSant.

News:

- Oz Hawksley--one of our founders, creator of Turkeyfoot Prairie, and a friend of many of us--is dying. He will remain in our hearts and our memories as an inspiration.
- Deems Brooks is home from the hospitals and rehab centers and doing very well. We hope he will be back with us next month.
- The Lincoln, NE rally against the XL Pipeline went very well.

August meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer: 8/31/17 balance \$1710. Steve proposed (John seconded) that we offer membership options that incorporate our new order of T-shirts and cups with the prairie picture at upcoming events, and it was approved.

- \$40 membership plus T-shirt and cup
- \$30 membership plus cup
- \$25 membership plus t-shirt
- \$15 membership only

Steve presented a draft of a letter to the Warrensburg City Council that incorporated ideas from Phil Miller, Mark Pearce, and himself. The letter urges the City Council to join the university and cities and schools around the country in endorsing the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. UCM has already done so, and signed up at the "We are still in" website: www.wearestillin.com. The statement of commitment we're asking the City to sign begins:

We, the undersigned mayors, governors, college and university leaders, businesses, and investors are joining forces for the first time to declare that we will continue to support climate action to meet the Paris Agreement."

We approved sending our letter (Mark, Karen).

Vern reported that he had met with the new private land biologist, and that he hopes to work with us on the prairie and future workshops.

Chris reported that the Bio-Blitz will have a variety of activities—including a bird hike, fishing, archery, insect hike, Asian carp fileting and cooking, and more. She asked how we would like to be involved. We agreed that we would have an information table, and will work with the Prairie

Foundation and the Sierra Club if they agree to participate. We will make sure info is provided on the value of prairies and the Grow Native program.

Earth Day – Angela asked what we want to include and the following list resulted:

- Upcycling – by High School volunteers organized by Aubrey
- Mark Miller – paw prints, etc.
- Osage Wildlife Rehab
- Music by Cathy and Scott (Karen)
- Larry Werneke and his turtles
- John Hess – photo booth
- UCM Wildlife Society exhibit/activity
- Planting project – probably prairie plants, especially for monarchs
- Maya may organize an upcycle art project to create something for the community

Prairie – we will have a small burn Saturday, if weather permits. This will help demonstrate prairie principles.

Life-Long-Learning event at the prairie – long discussion of what information will be provided and who will provide it. We also agreed that there will be cookies, cider and water, tables for membership info and refreshments, and 3 canopies. Mark handed out flyers and asked us to help distribute them around town.

Submitted by Secretary Jane VanSant