



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru  
to the United Nations*

29 January 2013

Dear Mr. McKibben,

As the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), a group of 44 island and low-lying countries that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, I want to publically acknowledge support for the thousands of people who will descend on Washington, D.C. on February 17<sup>th</sup> as part of this important occasion.

I am mindful that real progress is often only achieved after citizens, often times the youth, have passionately committed themselves to the cause of social justice.

The rally comes in the aftermath of a season of record tropical storms in Palau, the Philippines, Samoa, and Fiji that has graphically illustrated how climate change involves the most fundamental aspect of social justice: that of life and death.

It will also take place at a critical juncture in the effort to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change. The world's leading scientists have been absolutely clear: unless bold action is taken, it will no longer be possible to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, to say nothing of the well below 1.5 degrees mark that is necessary to ensure the survival of all of our members.

In fact, some of our communities have already been forced to flee their homes to escape surging seas – a terrifying reality that will grow even more severe and widespread unless action is taken immediately.

Thus we are encouraged that so many people will be participating in an event designed to underscore the risks that the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline poses, and not just to the scores of towns and agricultural communities along its path in North America, but to small island states around the world.

As a government representative, I understand that providing good jobs for the people is one of the highest priorities for any official, particularly during challenging economic times. However, a U.S. State Department analysis of the Keystone project found that only 20 permanent full-time positions could be expected from the pipeline. And by diverting limited resources, they would come at the expense of creating countless long-term jobs building and maintaining clean energy sources of tomorrow.

In the days and weeks to come, AOSIS will reiterate its calls for all nations to begin a concrete discussion on the policies and measures necessary for achieving deep emissions reductions in the short-term and ways to overcome the barriers that have thus far prevented their implementation.

"The Forward on Climate" rally serves as a powerful reminder to leaders everywhere that the solutions to climate change are within reach if they have the courage to act.

We know that this struggle won't end overnight; we have much work ahead of us. But history is made at events like these. So we thank you for your support and assure you of ours as we fight for justice together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marlene Moses', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marlene Moses  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative  
Chair, Alliance of Small Island States

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