

Art Peck
President and Chief Executive Officer
Gap, Inc.
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Peck:

We are writing you to urge that Gap cease funding the United States Chamber of Commerce.

As you know, Gap has made several commitments related to the fight against climate change. It has committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2020.¹ Gap has also signed the CERES Climate Change Declaration,² the Corporate Renewable Energy Buyers' Principles,³ and declarations in favor of both the Clean Power Plan (CPP)⁴ and the Paris Agreement.⁵

Unfortunately, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is doing everything it can to block efforts to combat climate change. It opposes the Paris Agreement that you publicly support,⁶ is suing to block the implementation of the Clean Power Plan,⁷ consistently lobbies against legislation aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions,⁸ and spends millions of dollars in money on elections ads urging voters to back candidates who support the fossil fuel industry and oppose efforts to combat climate change.⁹ In short, the Chamber is one of the biggest obstacles to serious, effective action on climate change here in the U.S. And of course, without action in the U.S., we will be unable to realistically address what is truly a global problem.

The problems with funding the Chamber do not stop with its leading role opposing action on climate change and fighting critical environmental protections. The Chamber has also increasingly become a highly partisan political organization. It formed an explicit alliance with leading Republicans to "Save the Senate" (for Republicans) in the 2016 elections.¹⁰ The Chamber was the largest spender of secret or dark money on congressional elections in the 2016 cycle and it spent 100 percent of its money for the benefit of Republican candidates.¹¹ The Chamber is now working hand in glove with President Trump and Republicans in Congress to enact its anti-environmental, anti-consumer agenda. Your customer base and

¹ Gap Inc. Sets Ambitious New Climate Goal to Foster Cleaner Global Business, Gap, <http://bit.ly/2oN9aEE>

² CERES Climate Change Declaration, CERES, <http://bit.ly/2nloJZE>

³ Corporate Renewable Energy Buyers' Principles: Increasing Access to Renewable Energy, Corporate Renewable Energy Buyers' Principles Partnership, <http://bit.ly/2paRFdS>

⁴ Letter to Governors expressing Support for State Implementation of Carbon Pollution Standards, CERES, <http://bit.ly/2o6AOcM>

⁵ Business Backs Low-Carbon USA, Low-Carbon USA, <http://bit.ly/1LPn3Sg>

⁶ Chamber Inflates Costs, Ignores Benefits of Climate Action, NRDC, <http://on.nrdc.org/2nPHPOj>

⁷ U.S. Chamber Files Lawsuit Challenging EPA's Unprecedented Attempt to Restructure Nation's Electricity System, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, <http://bit.ly/1LrOfcU>

⁸ The U.S. Chamber: A Record of Obstruction on Climate Action, Yale Environment 360, <http://bit.ly/2paIFGQ>

⁹ See, e.g., U.S. Chamber ads against Katie McGuinty, for Rob Portman, and for James Comer, available at <http://bit.ly/29hWcU1>, <http://bit.ly/2nmF3E3>, <http://bit.ly/2oRsqxO>, and <http://bit.ly/2oRsPQJ>

¹⁰ Business Makes Senate Push, The Wall Street Journal, <http://on.wsj.com/2oNkikD>

¹¹ The Republican Party and the Chamber of Secrets, Public Citizen, <http://bit.ly/2hdVXNL>

employees are ideologically diverse, and purchasing Gap products should not require consumers to fund a partisan agenda with which many may disagree. Indeed, you already appear to recognize this, as Gap's limited political contributions have smartly benefited candidates of both parties.¹²

Many large companies such as Apple, Pacific Gas & Electric, Exelon,¹³ and CVS¹⁴ have already considered the repercussions of the Chamber's reactionary agenda on their brands and businesses and chosen to publicly leave the Chamber. Many other Fortune 500 companies have quietly left the Chamber as well.¹⁵ We urge you to join these companies in reconsidering the nature of your relationship with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and its hyper-partisan anti-climate agenda. The Chamber's agenda is bad for the planet and its secret money political spending is bad for a transparent democracy.

Sincerely,

Action on Smoking and Health

African American Ministers In Action (AAMIA)

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO)

Broome Tioga Green Party

Cancer Aid Society

Center for Biological Diversity

Center for Food Safety

Center for Media and Democracy

Center for Popular Democracy

Citizens' Environmental Coalition

Clean Water Action

Compassionate Communication Spokane

Consumer Action

Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety

Corporate Accountability International

CREDO Action

Daily Kos

DNF - Les Droits des Non-Fumeurs

Economic Policy Institute

Family Values at Work

Green America

¹² Gap, Inc. PAC Contributions to Committees, Federal Election Commission, <http://bit.ly/MmUtAU>

¹³ Discord in Chamber of Commerce, Forbes, <http://bit.ly/2nToD2a>

¹⁴ CVS Health Leaves U.S. Chamber of Commerce, The Washington Post, <http://wapo.st/2o6yanf>

¹⁵ Based on coalition communications with more than two dozen Fortune 500 companies

Greenpeace
Health and Trade Network
Homeowners Against Deficient Dwellings
Human Rights and Tobacco Control Network
The Impact Fund
In the Public Interest
Institute for Science and Human Values
Interfaith Worker Justice
Labor Project for Working Families
League of Conservation Voters
National Council Against Smoking
National Economic & Social Rights Initiative
National Family Farm Coalition
Oil Change International
OxyRomandie
People Demanding Action
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Progressive Congress Action Fund
Protect All Children's Environment
Public Citizen
Public Justice Center
Rainforest Action Network
RootsAction.org
SafeWork Washington
Sierra Club
Smoke Free Partnership
Social Security Works
South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce
Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA)
SumOfUS
Tanzania Tobacco Control Forum (TTCF)
Tobacco Free Research Institute Ireland
U.S. PIRG
Virginia Organizing

Workplace Fairness