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January 5, 2017

President-elect Donald J. Trump
Presidential Transition Headquarters
1800 F Street, NW, Room G117
Washington, DC 20270-0117

Re: Environmental and Energy Policy

Dear President-elect Trump,

The New York City Bar Association (the “City Bar”) has a long history of supporting environmental laws and regulations that strike a balance between environmental values and economic interests. The strong federal laws that have been in place for the last half century strike that balance and have allowed for sustained economic growth while achieving dramatic improvement in the condition of our air, water, oceans and natural resources.

I am writing on behalf of the City Bar to urge you to preserve the hard-won progress that has been made over the years in protecting and improving America’s environment. We believe that the federal-state partnership created by the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and other bedrock environmental laws is essential to maintaining that progress. That federal-state framework has provided clear direction and consistency in the environmental requirements imposed across the country, creating the predictability required for business to operate efficiently. Since these benefits would not be possible without a well-funded and properly staffed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“USEPA”), we respectfully request that you reject any suggestion to deprive that critical agency of the resources it needs to operate effectively. To do so risks turning back the clock to a time when a patchwork of conflicting state requirements were in place, and our air, water and land resources were dumping grounds for pollution.

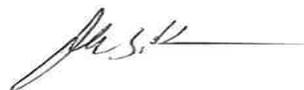
For the last decade the City Bar also has supported governmental efforts – at the federal, state and local levels -- to address the threat of climate change. We are encouraged by your recent pledge to keep an open mind with respect to the climate crisis, but at the same time are concerned that your nominees for Secretary of the Department of Energy and USEPA Administrator have expressed

doubt as to the severity of the problem. The City Bar – like the vast majority of climate scientists and Fortune 100 companies – recognizes that unchecked climate change poses a clear and present danger – not only to our environment but also to the fundamental social and economic stability of modern society. As President-elect, you now have access to a deep well of scientific expertise, and can draw conclusions based upon facts that are unaffected by political preconceptions. We hope that you will do so, and take on a leadership role in addressing this looming threat, both by reducing our domestic Greenhouse Gas emissions and by helping the developing world adapt to the impacts of climate change, impacts that, unless addressed, will increasingly threaten our own national interests and security.

With a full review of the facts, we expect that you also will recognize the economic benefits that can be gained by continuing existing policies -- and launching new programs – to encourage the development of renewable sources of power generation and the promotion of energy efficiency in transportation, industry and buildings. Thousands of new manufacturing, construction and technical jobs can be generated with programs that promote the continued expansion of the now-thriving solar, wind and energy efficiency industries, and we encourage you to expand, rather than undercut those policies.

Until recently, environmental protection and the promotion of renewable energy have been supported on both sides of the aisle. Recognizing that some previous Republican administrations have been times of immense environmental progress, we hope that yours will go down in history as the one that broke through the partisan logjam on climate action, and tackled that problem with the courage needed to preserve the well-being of the next generation of Americans.

Respectfully,



John S. Kiernan
President of the New York City Bar Association

cc:

Vice President-elect Mike Pence
Donald F. McGahn II, Esq., Incoming White House Counsel
Reince Priebus, Esq., Incoming White House Chief of Staff
Scott Pruitt, Esq., Nominee for EPA Administrator
Hon. Chris Collins, Transition Team Executive Committee
Hon. Charles Schumer
Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand
New York State Delegation, U.S. House of Representatives

Michael Mahoney, City Bar Environmental Law Committee
Gail Suchman, City Bar International Environmental Law Committee
Anil Kalhan, City Bar International Committee on Human Rights
Daniel Rosenblum, City Bar Energy Committee
Stephen Kass, City Bar Special Task Force for Climate Change Adaptation Law