

Climate Prediction Applications Science Workshop
Jornada Experimental Range
March 25, 2015

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the 13th Annual Climate Prediction Applications Science Workshop here at the Jornada Experimental Range and New Mexico State University, the home of the Southwest Regional Climate Hub. I am proud of New Mexico's leadership in the Climate Hub because of the quality research done by the Agricultural Research Service and others here, and because of the critical importance of scientific advancement, education, and outreach around the impacts of climate change, especially to agricultural producers.

I know that climate change is not theoretical, and that we are already experiencing its impacts. In recent years, most of the Western United States has experienced severe drought and dramatic increases in the frequency of intense wildfires and floods. In New Mexico we've already had communities literally run out of water for their residents due to lack of planning for drought scenarios. Last year, many locations around the world also witnessed the warmest average temperatures ever recorded. And we've seen firsthand the agricultural sector's vulnerability to changes in water supply, soil dynamics, and vegetation response.

As a member of the Senate Climate Action Task Force, I recognize that while action has costs, so too does inaction. The longer we decline to act, the greater our risk of increasingly unreliable food and water supplies for our nation. Furthermore, the more we undermine the foundations our communities - and economy - are built upon, the more difficult and expensive solutions will be.

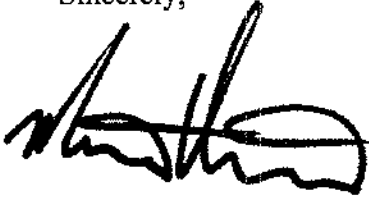
To inform the many hard but necessary decisions before us, it is imperative that science be our guide. Your role providing the science and risk analysis to decision makers - from Congress to individual farmers - is key to changing attitudes and behavior. While the political dynamics around climate change may seem discouraging to some, please know that we are making progress. For example, last year Independent Senator Angus King from Maine acknowledged that it was seeing the graph of carbon concentrations over geological time that finally convinced him that climate change is occurring and caused by humans. Other colleagues from across the aisle have also become convinced that action is necessary because of communication from scientists like you.

So I would like to commend Al Rango, Kris Havstad, and the Jornada Experimental Range; Jenna Meyers, Marina Timofeyeva, and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); and New Mexico's State Climatologist, David DuBois; on their hard work in organizing today's conference. I would also like to thank each of you for your efforts to

better understand and predict the challenges we face, contemplate how we might best address them, and share information with those that need it.

I hope you will consider me a partner in your work. I will do my part to support smart investments in a low carbon economy, strategy and technology development, and implementation of adaptation techniques. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff if we can be of assistance, and please keep us apprised of your results as your research and outreach activities progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Heinrich', written in a cursive style.

MARTIN HEINRICH
United States Senator