POWER THE FUTURE

November 5, 2026

The Honorable J.D. Vance
Vice President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Vice President Vance,

With the United Nations' 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) set to convene in Antalya, Turkey on November 9, we are writing to respectfully request a full audit of any United States participation in COP30 and any planned participation in COP31. We believe the American people have a right to know about how their money is spent or committed in connection with these summits.[1]

President Donald Trump has been clear that the United States will no longer bankroll the global climate agenda. In 2025, the administration declined to send high-level representatives to COP30 in Brazil, and earlier this year, the President directed the United States to withdraw from the treaty under which these conferences are held.[2][3]

These are the correct decisions. But the American people deserve confirmation that these principles extend to every level of the federal government, and that taxpayer dollars are no longer flowing into the COP process.

This concern is not hypothetical. Under the previous administration, participation in the COP process extended beyond the multiweek summits. In October 2022, former Secretary of State John Kerry, then serving as President Biden's Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, traveled to Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, for a "Pre-COP" preparatory meeting ahead of COP27, then continued to Abu Dhabi for the One Planet Sovereign Wealth Fund Summit.[4] This was taxpayer-funded travel to a meeting held to prepare for another meeting. The full cost of these preparatory events, side summits, staff, and travel across the Biden years has never been fully accounted for. Any remaining commitments, offices, or contracts that survived the transition should be identified and disclosed.

The excess surrounding the COP process abroad shows what American taxpayers have been asked to underwrite. Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen, recently hosted a pre-COP31 summit in Fiji and Tuvalu. Its contracted cost has reached $34.6 million, nearly $15 million more than the $20 million figure his government previously cited.[5] Australian reporting has documented that the summit struggled to draw major world leaders, while Australian families face rising power bills at home.

Despite rising global energy costs, the financial demands of leaders of COP31continue to grow. Turkey's environment minister and COP31 President-designate, Murat Kurum, said at the Fiji meeting that wealthy

countries should spend "much more" on climate than the 5 percent of GDP that NATO members have pledged for defense.[6] In other words, the host of this year's summit is asking nations like ours to put the climate agenda ahead of our own national security.

The position of the United States should be simple: not one more dollar. Rather than entertaining new demands, the federal government should examine the resources American taxpayers have already committed to finance the international climate agenda, and determine whether any of it was lost to fraud.

The White House Task Force to Eliminate Fraud was charged by President Trump with rooting out fraud, waste, and abuse and ensuring that American tax dollars are protected.[7] The same principle should apply when taxpayer money leaves our shores. International climate spending has long operated with little transparency and even less oversight, and it deserves the same scrutiny your Task Force is bringing to federal programs here at home.

To that end, we respectfully request that the audit answer the following:

1. Whether any federal employee, contractor, or grantee attended or supported COP30 or any related pre-COP side event, and at what cost to taxpayers.
2. Whether any federal funds have been spent, obligated, or committed for COP 31, its pre-COP meetings, or related events.
3. The total amount of taxpayer money sent to the COP process and associated international climate funds since 2021, and what measurable results, if any, it produced.
4. Whether any grants or contracts remain in place that route taxpayer dollars to non-governmental organizations or foreign entities participating in the COP process.

Two years ago, the American people did not vote to fund luxury climate summits or to send their hard-earned money overseas to satisfy foreign climate demands. President Trump has put America's energy workers and taxpayers first, and a full audit would ensure that commitment is honored across the entire federal government.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I appreciate your continued leadership protecting American taxpayers and American energy.

Sincerely,



Daniel Turner

Founder and Executive Director

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[1] Climate Change Resources, "COP31," https://climatechangeresources.org/learn-more/international/cop31/

[2] ABC News (via House SEEC), "The Trump administration didn't send a delegation to COP30," November 15, 2025, https://seec.house.gov/media/in-the-news/trump-administration-didnt-send-delegation-cop30-how-us-maintaining-presence

[3] Carbon Brief, "Q&A: What Trump's US exit from UNFCCC and IPCC could mean for climate action," January 9, 2026, https://www.carbonbrief.org/qa-what-trumps-us-exit-from-unfccc-and-ipcc-could-mean-for-climate-action

[4] U.S. Department of State, Office of the Spokesperson, "Special Presidential Envoy for Climate Kerry's Travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Arab Emirates," September 30, 2022, https://ae.usembassy.gov/special-presidential-envoy-for-climate-kerrys-travel-to-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-and-the-united-arab-emirates%EF%BF%BC/

[5] News24.com.au, "REVEALED: Chris Bowen's $20m climate summit bill blows out to $35m, with some costs expected to be recovered," October 2026, https://www.news24.com.au/politics/australian-politics/revealed-chris-bowens-20m-climate-summit-bill-blows-out-to-35m-with-some-costs-expected-to-be-recovered/news-story/ae9c5d5e9ab0e4a09636d2c21a02991e

[6] The Guardian, "Cop31 host urges wealthy countries to spend 'much more' on climate than defence," October 9, 2026, https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/oct/09/cop31-host-wealthy-countries-climate-crisis-spending-defence-nato

[7] The White House, Executive Order 14395, "Establishing the Task Force to Eliminate Fraud," March 16, 2026, https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/03/establishing-the-task-force-to-eliminate-fraud/