



# SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CCP

## DEMOCRATS | RANKING MEMBER RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

November 26, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St NW  
Washington, D.C. 20451

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We write to express great concern over this Administration's recent decisions to abandon U.S. leadership in global climate policy by refusing to officially participate in preparations for and attending the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP30) in Belém, Brazil. This move undermines our national interests and opens the door for the People's Republic of China (PRC) to dictate the international agenda on advanced energy manufacturing, energy cooperation, and environmental standards. By firing the last of our U.S. climate negotiators and abandoning international climate fora, the United States is signaling to the world that, when it comes to global leadership on climate and energy, it would rather stand on the sidelines than lead.<sup>1</sup> As the U.S. disengages, the PRC is moving to present themselves as a replacement partner.

Closing the Office of Global Change at the Department of State, long responsible for coordinating U.S. participation in climate negotiations, has left the United States without dedicated personnel to represent our interests in global climate agreements or to manage obligations under the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to which the U.S. has been a party for over 30 years.<sup>2</sup> Foreign leaders are taking notice of these actions and the broader roll back of domestic clean energy initiatives. In his remarks at the U.N. Leaders Meeting on Climate and Just Transition in April 2025, President Xi Jinping made reference to the United States' recent change in policy and called for deepened cooperation among Global South nations and strengthened multilateralism.<sup>3</sup> The PRC, the world's largest greenhouse gas emitter, began advancing its leadership role in 2017 after the Trump Administration announced its intentions to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, a sharp departure from the United States' prior role in shaping the international agreement and uniting nearly 200 countries around a

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<sup>1</sup> CNN, "U.S. Fires Climate Negotiators Ahead of COP30 Summit in Brazil," *CNN*, July 29, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/07/29/climate/us-fires-climate-negotiators-cop30-china>

<sup>2</sup> Politico, "Rubio Eliminates Office That Oversees Climate Talks," *Politico*, April 24, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/04/24/rubio-eliminates-climate-office-00308505>

<sup>3</sup> Xi Jinping, "Remarks by H.E. Xi Jinping President of the People's Republic of China at the Leaders Meeting on Climate and the Just Transition," *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China*, April 23, 2025, [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/xw/zyxw/202504/t20250423\\_11602660.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xw/zyxw/202504/t20250423_11602660.html).

shared vision.<sup>4</sup> The U.S. is in danger of forfeiting its competitive edge in a global clean energy technology market expected to surpass \$2 trillion by 2035.<sup>5</sup>

This year, this Administration also declined to send a delegation to the U.N. Subsidiary Bodies (SB 62) meeting in Bonn, Germany, marking the first time in three decades that the U.S. failed to participate in midyear climate negotiations.<sup>6</sup> Observers warned that “not having the U.S. in these talks shifts the power balance” and noted that the PRC and other countries are “gaining more momentum.”<sup>7</sup>

Global agreements are not symbolic. They drive innovation, set standards, and guide national policy. Here at home, the *Inflation Reduction Act* and the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* are creating millions of good-paying jobs, accelerating research and development in clean energy, and strengthening U.S. energy security with a comprehensive approach. These efforts align with our National Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement and underscore that U.S. engagement is not just about diplomacy but advancing economic competitiveness and national resilience.<sup>8, 9</sup> The United States cannot afford to miss this opportunity to shape our future. The PRC emits more greenhouse gases than all developed nations combined. Granting Beijing any semblance of environmental leadership is deeply misguided.

In light of these recent developments, we respectfully request that you respond to the below questions no later than December 12, 2025.

1. Which office or offices at the Department of State are now responsible for coordinating U.S. participation in global climate and energy negotiations?
2. Please provide a detailed rationale for why the Administration has chosen not to send an official U.S. delegation to COP30 in Belém, Brazil?
3. How does the Administration intend to meet U.S. obligations under the UNFCCC in the absence of dedicated personnel or official representation at negotiations?

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<sup>4</sup> Nik Popli, "What Happened the Last Time Trump Withdrew from the Paris Agreement," *TIME*, January 21, 2025, 7:09 p.m. EST, <https://time.com/7208955/trump-paris-climate-agreement-withdraw-impact/>; Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School, "Major Negotiations in History: In Paris Climate Talks, Planning Was Key," *PON Daily*, accessed September 9, 2025, content published by Harvard's negotiation blog.

<sup>5</sup> International Energy Agency, "Global Market for Key Clean Technologies Set to Triple to More Than US\$2 Trillion Over the Coming Decade as Energy Transitions Advance," *IEA News*, October 30, 2024, <https://www.iea.org/news/global-market-for-key-clean-technologies-set-to-triple-to-more-than-2-trillion-over-the-coming-decade-as-energy-transitions-advance>

<sup>6</sup> Politico Pro, "U.S. to Skip Bonn Climate Talks as World Charts Path to COP30," *E&E News*, June 12, 2025, <https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2025/06/12/us-to-skip-bonn-climate-talks-as-world-charts-path-to-cop30-00400060>

<sup>7</sup> Zia Weise, "American absence at climate talks met with regret — and relief," *Politico*, June 26, 2025, 8:32 pm CET, <https://www.politico.eu/article/american-trump-absence-bonn-un-climate-talks-regret-relief/>

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Energy, "Investing in American Energy: Significant Impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law on the U.S. Energy Economy and Emissions Reductions," *Office of Policy*, August 16, 2023, <https://www.energy.gov/policy/articles/investing-american-energy-significant-impacts-inflation-reduction-act-and-bipartisan-infrastructure-law-on-the-us-energy-economy-and-emissions-reductions>.

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Government, "*The United States of America: Nationally Determined Contribution — Reducing Greenhouse Gases in the United States: A 2035 Emissions Target*," submitted to UNFCCC, December 2024, <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2024-12/United%20States%202035%20NDC.pdf>

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raja Krishnamoorthi".

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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Ranking Member  
House Select Committee on the CCP

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Castor".

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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress