



Media contact:
Dave Webb
letterstothefuturemedia@newsreview.com
www.LettersToTheFuture.org

ONE YEAR LATER – THE PARIS CLIMATE TALKS AND A RENEWED CALL TO ACTION FROM *LETTERS TO THE FUTURE*

Weekly newspapers across US publish a one-year anniversary story on the Paris Climate Talks on behalf of LETTERS TO THE FUTURE, a project that had authors, scientists and artists predicting the outcome of the 2015 Paris Climate Conference.

(November 17, 2016 Sacramento CA) Alternative weeklies across the country will once again act together near the one-year anniversary of the 2015 Paris Climate Talks. In an unusual coordinated effort and on behalf of LETTERS TO THE FUTURE, an anniversary report by award-winning environmental journalist Alastair Bland will appear in several dozen American cities.

The anniversary story describes the tremendous challenges that lie ahead for those who believe the Paris agreement was humanity's last best chance to address the climate crisis. Writes Bland: "That such a serious planetwide crisis has become a divide across the American political battlefield 'is a tragedy' to Peter Kalmus, an earth scientist with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Caltech in Pasadena. Kalmus warns that climate change is happening whether politicians want to talk about it or not."

In the 2015 countdown to the Paris talks, LETTERS TO THE FUTURE generated original reflections from authors, scientists, artists and others on what has been called the greatest challenge facing the planet. Written for future generations, the letters (which continue to be posted at letterstothefuture.org) put a spotlight on the importance of the global climate treaty.

Dozens of celebrated public figures – **Jane Smiley, TC Boyle, Bill McKibben, Harry Reid, Geraldine Brooks, Jim Hightower, Carol Maillard and Sweet Honey in the Rock, Annie Leonard, David Harrington of Kronos Quartet** and more -- joined in drafting letters to future generations of their own families, predicting the success or failure of the Paris talks. The project was orchestrated out of the offices of the Sacramento News & Review and collaborative effort between the Association of Alternative Newsmedia newspapers and the Media Consortium.

Why the 2015 Paris Climate Conference was so important

Scientists warned for decades that current greenhouse gas emission trends put the Earth on track for calamitous storms, floods, droughts and rising oceans. But in 2015, the world's governments had yet to sign a legally binding agreement to avert climate disaster. The UN Climate Change Conference in Paris met in December 2015 and changed all that.