

Ad Hoc Committee on Harvard Divestment

Mr. William Lee
Senior Fellow
Harvard Corporation
c/o WilmerHale
60 State Street
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Bill:

While each day brings even more alarming data about the looming climate crisis (see [attached](#) analysis of climate tipping points), Harvard appears to be stuck in the same business-as-usual rut formed by President Faust nearly a decade ago. We write to you again today, with increasing frustration and alarm at Harvard's apparent inability to recognize the urgency of the situation, to modify the university's outdated and irrelevant investment policies, and to act with the leadership we would expect from this great university.

You have before you for discussion with the faculty this week an excellent White Paper, developed by senior faculty, which reaches far beyond any set of actions previously contemplated by the University. Included is a very specific recommendation about divesting the endowment from fossil fuels.

This White Paper provides an excellent road-map for a powerful demonstration of Harvard leadership. We believe that it is far past time for you to disentrail the University from the limitations of its past policies, and to act with the urgency required by the present existential crisis. The future of your students, and generations to come, depends on your leadership, and we beg you to act now.

We stand ready to assist with any actions that may be helpful.

Respectfully,

Timothy Wirth '61, former Overseer and United States Senator
Todd Gitlin '63, Professor of Journalism and Sociology, Columbia University
Stephen Heintz, President, Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Joan Hutchins '61, former Chair of the Board of Overseers
Bevis Longstreth HLS '61, former Commissioner of the SEC
Professor Gina McCarthy, School of Public Health, former Administrator of EPA
Bill McKibben '82, Middlebury Faculty, Author and Climate Organizer
Kat Taylor, '80, Banker and former Overseer
Tom Oliphant '67, Political Columnist
Darren Aronofsky '91, Film Director
John Harte '61, Professor of Ecosystem Sciences, Berkeley

Cc: Larry Bacow