



JANET C. LONG
COMMISSIONER

PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PHONE (727) 464-3365 • FAX (727) 464-3022 • 315 COURT STREET • CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756
www.pinellascounty.org

December 10, 2018

Patricia Espinosa
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat
P.O. Box 260124
D-53153 Bonn, Germany

Dear Ms. Espinosa,

Re: Offer to Host Conference of the Parties (COP 25)

As immediate past Chair of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC), this letter is written on behalf of the Tampa Bay Community on Florida's Gulf Coast to propose that we host the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP 25) in November of 2019. On October 8th, 2018, 24 regional governments in the Tampa Bay region signed onto the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition to better coordinate climate adaptation and mitigation activities in the most vulnerable part of our Country. To date, we have 26 regional governments signed on to work together to prepare for the economic and social disruption caused by sea level rise and climate change.

As outlined in your own United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's special report and again in the United States Fourth National Climate Assessment Report, Tampa Bay on the Gulf Coast of Florida is one of the most vulnerable areas on Earth to climate change. Our economy, which is based on tourism, agriculture, and real estate development, is in grave jeopardy from diverse threats such as rising seas, storm surge and flooding, public health threats from mosquito borne diseases and extreme heat; and the inevitable droughts and wildfires.

Local officials and leaders throughout the Tampa Bay Region are stepping up to the challenge to prepare our communities for the impacts of a changing climate.

To underscore this point at the COP 24 last week, former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger called for the UNFCCC to include local leaders and communities, “those effected and also carrying out the climate change work”, in the UN Climate Change process.

Tampa Bay is one such community that would not only like to be included in the important deliberations but, we would also be ready, willing, and able to host the conference. We appreciate the opportunity to discuss this with you and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet C. Long". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janet C. Long
District 1, Pinellas County Commission

Cc: Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners
Barry Burton, Pinellas County Administrator
Mike Merrill, Hillsborough County Administrator
Representative Kathy Castor, 14th District of Florida
Representative Charlie Crist, 13th District of Florida
David Downing, President & CEO, Visit St. Pete Clearwater
Sean Sullivan, Executive Director, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Karson Turner, President, Florida Association of Counties