



**PRESIDENT'S
SOCIETY**

October 4, 2021

Dear John,

It's the greatest existential threat you and I face. And it's not something that threatens us 'tomorrow,' or 'next month,' or 'next year.'

The scourge of climate change is taking a greater – and more deadly – toll than ever before here in our part of the world.

I'm not sending you this letter today about something that's 'theoretical,' or 'hypothetical.'

In the White Mountain National Forest, Georgia Murray, AMC's own senior staff scientist, researches the effects of climate change in Pinkham Notch and on Mt. Washington's summit. Weather data collected there since 1935 indicates that all seasons are warming, especially winters at Pinkham Notch, while spring is the fastest warming season at the summit.

According to climate scientists, our region is warming faster than the nation. And the effect of this accelerating change in our climate has been devastating.

John, as a valued President's Society member who cares deeply about conservation and our environment, you understand the extraordinary danger climate change poses to the people and places that we all love.

So today I want to provide you with an in-depth overview of what AMC is doing from Maine to the Mid-Atlantic right now to protect our region's threatened ecosystems.

And when I'm finished, I'm also going to ask you to do what you've always done better than anyone else – lead by example – by sending a donation of \$100, \$200, or perhaps even \$300 if you can, to preserve and protect the outdoors you love.

But first, let me share some details about the daily threats we're facing right now. And it all begins with a simple truth we cannot afford to ignore...

Our region is warming faster than the nation.

From the north of Maine stretching all the way to the Mid-Atlantic, you and I are feeling the effects of this crisis. In the Northeast, winters have become 3 weeks shorter over the past 100

(over please)

years. And, our region is warming faster and experiencing more extreme events like heavy precipitation and intense storms than the nation as a whole.

These data points are disheartening, but it's not the whole story.

Thanks to your generous support, AMC is leading the way with natural climate solutions to counter the devastating effects of climate change.

Perhaps the best example is AMC's Maine Woods, where we are uniquely positioned to help counteract the climate crisis we face.

You see, Maine's vast North Woods feature some of the largest areas of underdeveloped forests, lakes, and ponds in the United States. And its exceptionally high habitat connectivity means its wildlife will have the best chance to survive and thrive in the face of climate change. Its mountainous terrain within a vast intact forest holds a diverse range of plant and animal species, supports microclimates and microhabitats, and provides rare connectivity that allows species to move and adapt as the climate changes.

All of this adds up to what is known as climate resilience.

Since 2003, thanks in large part to you and the leadership of the President's Society, AMC has worked to conserve 75,000 acres (and counting!) of this critical forest, balancing land conservation with responsible timber management that enhances the long-term storage of carbon.

As you know, timber management is no small issue when it comes to the climate crisis. At AMC, we know that forests managed to hold carbon play an important role in helping us tackle climate change. And *responsible* harvesting is a critical tool to return these forests to their full ecological functionality.

And through our innovative work in AMC's Maine Woods, we have created a new model of land conservation that successfully balances wilderness-based recreation and responsible timber management to...

- o Provide a high level of protection to ecological, scenic, and recreational resources...
- o Create a more mature forest that resembles the region's natural forests...
- o Increase the ability of the forest to store carbon – actively reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

By prioritizing conservation and restoration of our forests and waters, we've created a healthier and more resilient landscape for the plants and animals that reside there. And you and I are also playing a lead role in combatting climate change here in our part of the country.

This commitment stretches from Maine all the way to the Mid-Atlantic.

For instance, today AMC spearheads the Highlands Coalition, a partnership of more than 200 organizations protecting 3.5 million acres of the Mid-Atlantic Highlands. Think about that number for a second... 3.5 million acres!

This vibrant ribbon of green space stretches from northwestern Connecticut, through New York

and New Jersey to Pennsylvania – the geographical heart of AMC’s region.

Here, AMC is advocating for full federal funding of the Highlands Conservation Act – which provides for the purchase and preservation of threatened lands in the four-state corridor. And AMC staff are working hard to extend and amend the Act before it expires this year.

Thanks to the President’s Society and conservationists like you, majestic landscapes are being preserved and protected. And it’s all because of you.

With your leadership gift of \$100, \$200, or \$300, you will protect and preserve vital natural resources in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic while fostering a resilient and sustainable future.

- 1. Your gift advances robust science:** You’ll lead mountain acid rain research, collecting and analyzing cloud water at our site on Mt. Washington. You’ll also track ozone and haze pollution. And you’ll compile data from ponds in the northern Appalachian and Adirondack mountains to observe the effects of changing air quality and climate.
- 2. Your gift strengthens crucial advocacy:** You’ll collaborate with conservation and recreation partners – and inform federal and state decision-makers on how to best protect our vital outdoor spaces in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.
- 3. Your gift powers hands-on work:** You’ll build, maintain, and repair more than 1,800 miles of trails... support that is needed more than ever in this age of accelerating climate change.

Why? Well, because the winters in our part of the country are now shorter and less snowy than before, there are more hikers on our trails in late fall and early spring. This longer hiking season puts more strain on trails and trail maintenance crews. One more tangible impact of climate change.

- 4. Your gift protects wildlife across our region:** Faced with warmer and shorter winters, reduced snowfall, and hotter summers, many species are struggling to survive the impacts of climate change – including the iconic moose and black bear. By protecting the forests and waters of our region, you are providing wildlife the best chance to survive and thrive in the face of a changing climate.

Your President’s Society gift to AMC continues the fight to protect these threatened ecosystems from Maine to the Mid-Atlantic right now!

Yes, climate change *is* the single greatest conservation crisis of our time.

And there is so much more to be done.

Every contribution you make to AMC protects trees in the Maine Woods and beyond to store carbon and reduce greenhouse gasses; researches climate change and its impact on outdoor recreation and fragile ecosystems; and advocates for full federal funding for the Highlands Conservation Act, protecting 3.5 million acres of vital land in the nation’s most populous region.

Won't you join me with a generous gift to the President's Society today? Your gift will be put to good use to protect and preserve the places you care about most.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Judge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and the last name "Judge" clearly distinguishable.

John Judge
President and CEO

P.S. Bolster AMC's robust science, focused advocacy, and hands-on work to protect the outdoors from Maine to the Mid-Atlantic Highlands! Check out the enclosed map to see how far your donation goes when you support AMC. Your leadership gift is urgently needed to fight climate change and enhance our region's climate resiliency.

outdoors.org/PSCombatClimateChange