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Joint Statement on Climate Action

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Building and Nuclear Safety, Barbara Hendricks and Governor of
California, Jerry Brown

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Taking action to combat climate change is of vital importance for the world today and future generations. The Paris Climate Agreement of December 2015 is a milestone in global efforts to limit the global temperature increase to well below 2°C and even further to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and to ensure prosperous and sustainable development around the globe. The withdrawal of the U.S. from the Paris Agreement underscores the important role that non-state actors, and particularly subnational actors, play in achieving the overall objective and goals of that Agreement.

Recognizing the importance of the Paris Agreement's long-term temperature goal and need to reach net zero emissions in the second half of the century, California and Germany have both set ambitious targets to cut emissions at least 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. California and Germany understand that tackling climate change, and the transition it entails, is not only a necessity, but also an opportunity for economic growth. The transition to a greenhouse gas-neutral and climate-resilient economy creates a stable investment environment. It is a catalyst for innovation and long-term growth and employment and will result in positive effects for health, social justice and security. Failure to act puts the international community at risk of instability and economic losses.

A sustainable and climate-friendly transformation of societies and economies cannot be stopped. Renewable energy has reached a tipping point: more than 30 countries have already reached grid parity where alternative energy is now cheaper than traditional power, with more good news every day. Accordingly, both California and Germany have committed to foster clean energy at home and globally. In both California and Germany, emissions trading programs have demonstrated their potential as key instruments of a successful climate policy, together with a broad suite of other measures that drive climate investment and emissions reductions.

California and Germany appreciate the important and respective roles that each jurisdiction plays in combatting climate change. Germany welcomes the great success of California's manifold initiatives on climate action at the national level, including Governor's Clean Energy Accord and most recently the the launch of the U.S. Climate Alliance. The state has set a remarkable example for other states and regions around the world through initiatives like the Under2 Coalition

California welcomes and supports the objectives of the German G20 Presidency to drive forward energy transformation and the implementation of the Paris Agreement, as the world looks hopefully to Hamburg in July. The State commends Germany's commitment to host the Fijian Presidency of COP 23 in Bonn and looks forward to reconvening in Germany in November to continue promoting subnational participation on the global climate action stage.

California and Germany agree that the work of the Under2 Coalition is critical and still growing, and now brings together more than 170 states, regions and cities around the world that are committed to limiting global warming by implementing ambitious measures of climate action. As a founding member of the Under2 Coalition, Germany fully supports the work of this organization and is determined to contribute financially to its important work. California and Germany will provide strong leadership for the activities of the Under2 Coalition in the COP 23 in Bonn this November, supporting the group in playing a strong and reinforced role in driving climate action into 2018, and particularly approaching 2020 as a key milestone for the Agreement.