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Dear Robb,

I am very honored to accept the Climate Change Leadership Institute's 2016 Climate Courage Award. As you know, I have passed along the monetary award to the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network, a grassroots organization doing tremendous work to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy, with the goal of reducing the fossil fuel emissions that contribute to global climate change.

To my mind, climate change is the single greatest threat facing our planet. We are already seeing the devastating effects of global warming, from more severe droughts, flooding, forest fires, and rising sea levels. Virtually the entire scientific community agrees that human activity is a significant driver of global warming. The U.N. Panel on Climate Change warns that if we don't drastically reduce carbon emissions, the effects of global warming will get much worse by mid-century - including crop failures, increased hunger and illness, more extreme weather, and extinction of species.

While this prognosis is dire, most scientists also agree that we can avoid the worst consequences of climate change, *if we act boldly*. That is why I am so pleased that organizations such as the Climate Change Leadership Institute are doing such excellent work to address the crisis. It is also why, as a member of both the Senate Environmental and Public Works and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committees, I will continue to fight for policies that cut greenhouse gas emissions and radically transform our energy system, including putting a price on methane and carbon. After all, we have a moral responsibility to do everything possible future generations inherit a planet every bit as habitable as the one we now enjoy.

Again, please accept my sincerest appreciation for receiving this distinction and my warmest congratulations on all the fine work you do to promote environmental sustainability.

Sincerely,



BERNARD SANDERS
UNITED STATES SENATOR