

June 1, 2006

Thomas Friedman  
New York Times, Suite 700  
1627 I St. NW  
Washington DC 20006

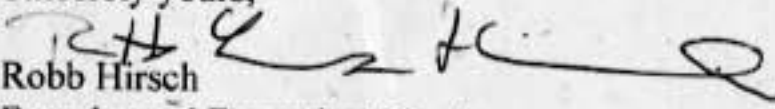
Dear Mr. Friedman:

This nascent non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging US climate change leadership gives out Climate Courage Awards annually to people in the private and public sector who boldly make a difference in this important matter for present and future generations. Last year, for our inaugural award presentation, we selected a mayor of a small town, a humble hero of sorts, who has taken a far-sighted stance against drilling for fossil fuels in the Valle Vidal, a natural heritage site in northern New Mexico, even though the rural community he represents desperately needs jobs. Instead he has stood for the future in the form of renewable energy development. This year we have selected you – someone clearly on the national stage – as the recipient of the 2006 Climate Courage Award because of the wisdom and tenacity of your writings compelling the United States to do the right thing in the direction of national security and sustainability.

Your editorials for the New York Times, books on globalization and other works have been calling on the United States to alter our course from the harmful status quo of fossil fuel dependence and energy inefficiency to being a beacon of light through energy policy stewardship. Your critical research and commentary on the subject has been vital to the health of our democracy because it holds the *powers that be* accountable by educating the public at large on the gravity of the issue and the necessity to truly change. We congratulate you and the other pioneers who are helping the popular culture and mainstream media come around. The peoples' and media's pressure for US climate leadership is as urgent as ever to overcome powerful special interests and replace elected representatives' lethargy and lack of courage with a newfound sense of responsibility.

For steadfastly summoning a sleeping Nation, we send you a heartfelt thank you and present you with the 2006 Climate Courage Award plaque as well as a \$500 modest financial award (hopefully some day soon this could be like the Nobel Peace Prize and amount to \$500,000). We ask that you consider using at least a portion of the funds in support of a charity of your choosing that supports the cause at hand. We would also appreciate it if you could email us a confirmation that you received this correspondence and provide us with a personal statement on your view of the need for US climate change leadership as well as a notification of the charity(ies) you intend to support so we can post this information on our website, which is [www.takeresponsibility.us](http://www.takeresponsibility.us).

Sincerely yours,



Robb Hirsch  
Founder and Executive Director  
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# The New York Times

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THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN  
Foreign Affairs Columnist


June 16, 2006

Robb Hirsch  
Founder  
Climate Change Leadership Institute  
911 Stagecoach Road  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Mr. Hirsch:

Thank you very much for honoring me with the Climate Courage Award this year. It means a great deal to me. I have endorsed the check and am sending it back to you as I know you will put the money to good use. I appreciate the good work you are doing and I will continue to sound the call through my columns and books.

Best regards,



Thomas L. Friedman