



A tribute to Dr. James Hansen for his outstanding contribution to limit the impact of global warming

Dear Jim,

On the occasion of the first meeting of the National Council of the Grandparents' Climate Action of Norway, we wish to express our appreciation for your relentless work to limit the impacts of climate change. Your outstanding contributions as a scientist and responsible citizen, and not least as a grandparent, has not only served as a wake up call, but also started a world wide chain reaction of awareness and understanding of the devastating mechanisms of global warming. Your commitment is an inspiration to all generations, as it surely is to your fellow scientists.

We, the Norwegian Grandparents' Climate Action, feel particularly indebted to you for your strong appeals to Norwegian political leaders to act on the fact that "...the world is on the verge of handing young people and future generations a dynamically changing climate that is out of their control, with devastating consequences for humanity and nature", as you stated in your letter of May 2011 to Prime Minister Stoltenberg. Like you, we believe that a healthy, natural, prosperous future is still possible, but not if business-as-usual continues.

Norwegian participation in exploitation of tar sands in Alberta, Canada, is indeed business-as-usual, and worse. It is a sad fact that the Norwegian government so far has ignored the unanimous call from the environmental movement as well as political parties and Norwegian church organizations, to instruct Statoil to pull out of tar sands development, a request that you have strongly underlined in your letters to PM Stoltenberg in 2010 and 2011. Pulling Statoil out of the tar sands project seems all the more appropriate now, as Statoil recently pleaded guilty to the charges of environmental crimes, raised by the state of Alberta, in connection with Statoil's tar sand extraction. We, the Grandparents' Climate Action of Norway, will stand firmly on the demand that Statoil must leave the tar sands alone.

At this moment in time, we wish to express our support of the important campaign started in Washington DC on August 20th, aiming to raise public awareness of the potentially disastrous environmental impact of the planned Keystone pipeline that will carry oil from the tar sands of Alberta to Texas, the campaign also urging president Obama to reject the plan, thereby preventing its construction. We are keenly aware that this two weeks campaign of non-violent direct action, initiated by a prominent group of environmentalists, indigenous leaders and scientific experts - yourself included, demands a great deal of all its participants, as the considerable number of arrests bear witness to.

The Norwegian Grandparents' Climate Action salutes your courage and determination, and thank you for your invaluable contribution in our common struggle for our planet's future and the prosperity and safety of our grandchildren.

Best regards
Halfdan Wiik
on behalf of the National Council