



## RCC Response to the 2024 Election: Weathering the Storm

### **Officers:**

Robert K. Musil, Ph.D., M.P.H.  
*President & CEO*  
Martha Hayne Talbot  
*Vice President*  
Richard J. Mandel,  
*Treasurer*  
Claudia Joy Wingo, RN., DMH  
*Secretary*

### **Board of Directors:**

Roger Christie, *Chairman*  
Ross A. Feldner  
Marilyn Fioravanti, RN  
Emily McAuliffe  
Alexandra Wisner, M.E.M.

### **National Advisory Council:**

Linda J. Lear, Ph.D.,  
*Senior Advisor*  
Jamie Berger  
Douglas Brinkley, Ph.D.  
Melanie Choukas-Bradley  
Luz Claudio, M.S., Ph.D.  
Deborah Cramer  
Lynn R. Goldman, M.D.,  
M.S., M.P.H.  
J. Drew Lanham, Ph.D.  
Mark Madison, Ph.D.  
Bill McKibben  
Emily McAuliffe  
Cathy Middlecamp, Ph.D.  
Sandra Steingraber, Ph. D.  
Mila Turner, Ph.D.  
Renée White, Ph.D.  
Sacoby Wilson, Ph.D.

### **Advisory Committee:**

Robert Aubry Davis  
David J. McGarvey, Ph.D.  
Susan B. Peterson  
Robert A. Whitney, Jr.,  
M.S., D.V.M.

### **Liaison to the Council:**

Aaron Blair, Ph.D., M.P.H.

The results from Tuesday are not what we wanted to see. The re-election of Donald Trump—a convicted felon, inveterate climate denier, misogynist, and racist—feels like a huge step back in terms of progress on the environment and justice the Rachel Carson Council has fought for and gained over the last four years.

We have collectively rallied outside federal agencies for pollution rules, expanded and deepened the RCC's leadership on campuses nationwide in finding and supporting the next generation of environmental leaders for climate justice, and amassed hard-fought wins at the federal, state, and local levels, including the historic Inflation Reduction Act, passed by the Biden-Harris Administration. All these victories are now jeopardized by the storm that will arrive with the incoming 47th President of the United States.

But not all hope is lost with the defeat of the Harris-Walz ticket and the end of President Joe Biden's environmentally-historic single term. The victories we have won with our members' help, and those which emerged in various states with this election, are the result of a still powerful and growing movement to educate, organize, advocate, and mobilize grassroots power for climate and environmental justice.

The RCC and the environmental movement will keep fighting for as long as is needed. Our RCC Campus Network of thousands of faculty and student activists continues to expand and will reach our 75<sup>th</sup> campus in January, with dozens more now looking to join us. With our members' support, we will continue to call out corporate greenwashing while debunking and blocking false climate solutions like the wood pellet industry, carbon capture and sequestration, liquefied natural gas, and extended oil recovery.

The RCC and our allies can do all this despite Donald Trump. We are in a strong position in key areas where we have been most active and successful, from New England and the mid-Atlantic to Illinois, Colorado, and the vast stretches of the West Coast from California to Washington. **We are ready to continue fighting at every level to block the worst of Trump's plans and to find victories that will surprise the pundits.**

Together, we can do it. Our members have stood with us through the best and the worst of times. Now, as a community, we can withstand the Trump storms—his promises to unravel our democratic institutions and environmental progress. Together, we can dissipate the clouds and once again see a new dawn breaking.

The RCC thanks all of its members and allies for what we have accomplished over the years. We are eager to press onward, once again, against climate-denying tyranny; to finally build a lasting, brighter future.

