

December 22, 2020

MIT Alumni for Climate Action (MACA)
via e-mail

Dear Alumni,

Thank you for your letter and for sharing your recommendations for a new MIT Plan for Action on Climate Change. President Reif and I appreciate very much the constructive spirit in which you have offered your ideas.

We are in full agreement with your characterization of climate change as a crisis, one that requires MIT – indeed, all of us – to take strong action immediately. This is the reason why we launched our [Climate Grand Challenges](#) initiative in July rather than waiting until we adopted a new Climate Plan. Similarly, early in the new year, we will be announcing a new MIT Climate & Sustainability Consortium that will help companies align their strategies, operations, and supply chains with a net-zero future. We will also be continuing the extensive research and development work of the LCECs, as well as with many of the companies that have spun off from them.

With respect to our efforts to lower MIT's own carbon footprint, we are on track to meet our initial 2030 goal, having reduced our net emissions even in a time when our campus grew rapidly. But given the imperative that the world reach net zero emissions by mid-century, we expect that our new plan will set more ambitious goals, even though we may not yet know precisely how we will achieve them. We have learned many lessons from our decarbonization efforts to date, and we are particularly interested in learning from the experiences of other research universities in reducing their emissions.

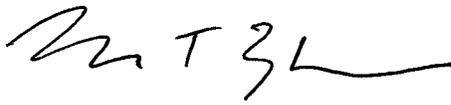
We continue to believe that engaging with a wide range of actors who may be able to help us solve major aspects of the climate problem should be a core strategic element of the new plan. Governments, companies, academic institutions, NGOs, and the media all have roles to play. In particular, we expect to work much more closely with the new Biden administration on climate issues than has been possible for the last four years. MIT has recently joined [Climate Action 100+](#), an investor initiative to ensure the world's largest corporate greenhouse gas emitters take necessary action on climate change. In addition, we expect to continue MIT's

research on strengthening corporate financial disclosure to better inform investors about climate risks.

We are very glad that you have initiated this dialog, and look forward to continued sharing of views and ideas. In the next few weeks we will be announcing several online community forums on climate-related issues: we hope that you and all alumni will attend these and offer your ideas and questions.

Again, many thanks for your commitment to being part of the solution to the climate crisis, and your encouragement to your alma mater in this historic endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M T Zuber', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Maria T. Zuber