



November 18, 2014

Dear members of the MWCOG Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee:

Over the last two years I have worked with our Center's Director Edward Maibach in conducting a yearly statewide survey on public health, energy and the environment in Maryland. We have developed a brief proposal to conduct a parallel public opinion survey in Virginia in spring 2015 and are currently circulating the concept to organizations and individuals in the Commonwealth, and larger region, who might find the data helpful in their own work. If you are interested in the initiative, and would consider participating in a stakeholder panel that would contribute to the development of the research questions, please contact me at the email address or phone numbers below. We will be approaching funders shortly to seek backing for the Virginia side of the effort.

For more information about our Maryland public opinion reports, please go to [climatemaryland.org/survey/](http://climatemaryland.org/survey/). We reach out to 6,400 randomly selected households every spring, and hear back from more than 1 in 3 of them across each of Maryland's regions. In the last few months we have released survey reports on climate adaptation and sea-level rise, energy, perceptions of climate change, and an audience segmentation known as "Global Warming's Six Americas." These data have been cited in *Baltimore Sun* articles, an op-ed, and in a local public radio program. We partner in conducting the research with the Climate Communication Consortium and the state's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and are looking to develop the same types of partnerships in the Commonwealth.

Lastly, for those of you who are based in Maryland, we welcome you to join the Climate Communication Consortium. Lauren Gentile is the organization's strategic communication coordinator. She can be reached at [lgentil2@gmu.edu](mailto:lgentil2@gmu.edu) or 203 695 2264, or just click "Join" at [climatemaryland.org](http://climatemaryland.org) to fill out the online application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Akerlof".

Karen Akerlof, PhD

[kakerlof@gmu.edu](mailto:kakerlof@gmu.edu)

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