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DANIEL M. KAMMEN
PROFESSOR AND CHAIR, ENERGY AND RESOURCES GROUP
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August 21, 2017

Mr. President,

I am resigning, with immediate effect, from my position as Science Envoy for the Department of State of the United States. Having served the Departments of Energy, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the State Department in a number of roles since 1996. Working closely with the talented teams at State Department Headquarters and at U. S. embassies abroad, we have built significant partnerships in North and East Africa, and the Middle East around shared visions of national security, job creation in the U. S. and in partner nations, and in sustainable energy.

My decision to resign is in response to your attacks on core values of the United States. Your failure to condemn white supremacists and neo-Nazis has domestic and international ramifications. On this issue, I stand with the unequivocal and authoritative statements of Charlottesville Mayor Mike Signer, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, Ohio Governor John Kasich, Senator John McCain, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Presidents George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush, Dr. Cornel West, Linda Sarsour, the Palestinian-American activist and one of the organizers of the Women's March, and many others.

Particularly troubling is the consistency of your response to Charlottesville with a broader pattern that enables sexism and racism, and disregards the welfare of young Americans, the global community and the planet.

Examples of this destructive pattern exist in the area of my duties as Science Envoy. Your decision to abdicate the leadership opportunities and the job creation benefits of the Paris Climate Accord, and to undermine energy and environmental research stand out, but sadly, are not the only examples.

Acts and words matter. To continue in my role under your administration is inconsistent with the principles of the United States Oath of Allegiance to which we all adhere.

Character is vital in leadership. I find particularly wise the admonition of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who cautioned that, "A people [or person] that values its privileges above principles soon loses both."

Herein, I resign with regret. I deeply respect and value the work of the many fine people in our federal agencies. Your presence in the White House harms the United States domestically and abroad and threatens life on this planet.

Sincerely,

Professor Daniel M. Kammen
Science Envoy, U. S. State Department (former)