



UAE Minister of Environment & Climate Change in DC September 18

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Tue, Sep 10, 2019 at 9:05 AM

To:

Dear [REDACTED],

I hope this note finds you both well and that you were able to enjoy some of the August recess. My name is Hagir Elawad; I handle Legislative & Political-Military Affairs for H.E. Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba and the UAE Embassy here in DC.

I am reaching out today because our Minister of Climate Change & Environment, His Excellency Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi, will be in town September 18-20, and while we requested meetings with both Senators Cardin and Van Hollen respectively, we recognize the timing is not ideal with members just coming back into recess. We do appreciate the interest from both Senators, however, and their work with the Climate Change Task Force.

With that, we thought it would be just as important to meet with senior staff from the task force and would like to request your assistance in arranging a small bipartisan group in the **afternoon of September 18** for a meeting with H.E. Dr. Al Zeyoudi. Minister Al Zeyoudi has accepted the invitation to serve as keynote speaker for the Middle East Institute's "Future Projections for the Middle East: Game-Changers for 2030 and Beyond" conference taking place on Thursday, Sept 19.

During his brief visit, he will also be meeting with USG officials and think tank personnel. Minister Al Zeyoudi would very much like to share some of the UAE's significant strides and commitments in this area, including:

- The UAE recently hosted UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres for the Abu Dhabi Climate Meeting, and renewable energy is a focus at UNGA this year.
- The UAE just opened Noor Abu Dhabi, the largest solar project in the world, and another new plant is on the way at the Al Dhafra Air Base.
- In March 2019, the UAE hosted the World Ocean Summit, marking the first time the summit was held in the Middle East. At the summit, His Excellency Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, stressed the need for all groups, including governments and NGOs, to work together to address this issue.
- In 2018, the UAE The Ministry Of Climate Change And Environment led an initiative, centered around the 'UAE Food Waste Pledge,' to save three million meals by 2020, in line with the UN target of cutting food losses and waste by 50 percent by the year 2030.
- In 2012, the UAE launched an environmental strategy under the theme, 'Green Economy for Sustainable Development.' In July 2019, the UAE Roads and Transport Authority announced that, so far, it has carried out 74 initiatives focusing on a move to a green economy, environmental sustainability, and power efficiency, including a rising number of electric vehicles and an increase in public transportation.

I am also attaching Minister Al Zeyoudi's bio for your reference, and copying my colleague Jonathan Garon from our Embassy Trade team should you have any further questions. We look forward to hearing from you!

Best,

9/11/2019

UAE Strategies Mail - UAE Minister of Environment & Climate Change in DC September 18

~Hagir

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HE Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi_Bio.pdf

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His Excellency Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi was appointed the Minister of Climate Change and Environment for the United Arab Emirates in February 2016. Previously, His Excellency served as a Permanent Representative of the UAE to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) from 2010 to 2017. He was also the Director of the Department of Energy and Climate Change within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2010 to 2016.

Earlier, as Project Engineer at Masdar, His Excellency Dr Al Zeyoudi worked to advance renewable energy technologies and solutions. During this time, he also played an instrumental role in the UAE's successful 2009 bid to host IRENA, the first international organization dedicated to renewable energy. He started his career as Reservoir Engineer at the Abu Dhabi Marine Operating Company (ADMA-OPCO).

He heads the UAE Council for Climate Change and Environment, the National Committee of Biosecurity, and the Emirates Committee for Sustainable Environment Research. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), the Board of Trustees of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, the Audit and Selection Committees of the Zayed Sustainability Prize and the Board of Directors of the Global Green Growth Institute.

His Excellency Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi holds a PhD in Project and Program Management from SKEMA Business School in France, an MBA from the New York Institute of Technology in the US, an MSc in Project Management from the British University in Dubai and a bachelor's degree in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Tulsa in the US. In 2015, His Excellency Dr Al Zeyoudi received the first Gulf Cooperation Council Excellence Award in recognition of his pioneering efforts in renewable energy.