



LOS ANGELES MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI
AT THE STANFORD CENTER AT PEKING UNIVERSITY
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THANK YOU DR. OI FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION AND TO THE STANFORD CENTER AT PEKING UNIVERSITY FOR HOSTING US HERE TODAY.

I AM GLAD TO BE BACK IN BEIJING AND I AM HONORED TO SPEAK AT A UNIVERSITY THAT HAS WELCOMED THE VOICES OF WORLD LEADERS TO ITS CAMPUS FOR DECADES.

I AM PARTICULARLY EXCITED TO BE HERE BECAUSE JUST LAST WEEK, AFTER MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS, CHINA AND THE U.S. AGREED ON A CRITICAL COMMON CAUSE: CURBING CARBON EMISSIONS.

THAT INCLUDES A HEROIC, HISTORIC PLEDGE BY CHINA TO STOP ITS EMISSIONS FROM GROWING BY 2030.

PRESIDENT OBAMA AND PRESIDENT XI JINPING WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR THEIR REMARKABLE FORESIGHT, THEIR COMMITMENT TO GROWING THEIR ECONOMIES, AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, THEIR DESIRE TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF THEIR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET.

AS PRESIDENT OBAMA SAID TO PRESIDENT XI, "WHEN THE U.S. AND CHINA ARE ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER EFFECTIVELY, THE WHOLE WORLD BENEFITS."

I COULDN'T AGREE MORE.

THIS PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE WORLD'S TWO GREATEST ECONOMIC POWERS—AND THE WORLD'S TWO LARGEST CARBON EMITTERS—NOT ONLY SETS AN EXAMPLE FOR THE WORLD TO FOLLOW, BUT IS NECESSARY FOR THE WORLD TO SURVIVE.

AS MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES, A MEMBER OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CLIMATE TASK FORCE, AND AS A RECENTLY ELECTED MEMBER OF THE GLOBAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF C40, I ASPIRE TO THE SAME EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND ACTIONS AT THE CITY LEVEL.

I HAVE SPOKEN WITH THE WHITE HOUSE AND WITH MAYORS IN CHINA AND ACROSS THE U.S., AND LOS ANGELES IS READY TO HOST A MEETING NEXT YEAR WITH OTHER LARGE CITIES TO FOLLOW UP ON PRESIDENT OBAMA AND XI'S CALL TO ENGAGE IN WINNING THE BATTLE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE.

AFTER ALL, WHEN OUR PRESIDENTS PROMISE TO DRASTICALLY LIMIT CARBON EMISSIONS, THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT LIMITING CARBON EMISSIONS IN MAJOR CITIES.

THEY MAKE THE PLEDGE, BUT THEN IT IS UP TO US TO MAKE THE CHANGE.

YES, THE ENTIRE PLANET IS IN THIS EFFORT TOGETHER, BUT CITIES ARE THE PRIMARY EMITTERS OF GREENHOUSE GASES.

WE ARE ALSO THE ECONOMIC POWERHOUSES THAT KEEP OUR COUNTRIES AFLOAT. RIGHT NOW, CITIES GENERATE 80% OF GLOBAL GDP AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR AROUND 70% OF GLOBAL ENERGY USE.

AND BY 2050, THE WORLD'S URBAN POPULATION WILL INCREASE BY AT LEAST 2.5 BILLION PEOPLE. THAT MEANS TWO-THIRDS OF US WILL LIVE IN CITIES.

BECAUSE CITIES ARE THE SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM, WE HAVE TO BE THE SOURCE OF THE SOLUTIONS, TOO.

AS LOS ANGELES AND BEIJING TACKLE THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION THAT THREATENS THE HEALTH OF OUR LOCAL ECONOMIES AND OUR CITIZENS, WE HAVE A LOT TO LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER.

LIKE BEIJING, LOS ANGELES HAS THE PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF LEADING THE WORLD IN INNOVATION, INVENTION, AND INSPIRATION.

BUT ALSO LIKE BEIJING, OUR CITY'S GEOGRAPHY TRAPS DIRTY AIR.

WE KNOW THOUGH THAT POLLUTION ISN'T THE RESULT OF BAD GEOGRAPHY ALONE, BUT THE RESULT OF HUMAN ACTIVITY IN THAT GEOGRAPHY.

LIKE BEIJING TODAY, IN THE LAST CENTURY, MY CITY WENT THROUGH A RAPID PACE OF POPULATION AND INDUSTRIAL GROWTH, WITH ITS CONCOMITANT DEMANDS FOR MORE POWER, JOBS, AND A RISING MIDDLE CLASS THAT BOUGHT AND DROVE CARS.

WE WERE AND ARE PROUD OF THAT GROWTH, AS YOU SHOULD BE TOO. BUT IT CAME AT A COST.

OUR FIRST SMOG ATTACK CAME DURING WORLD WAR TWO, AND IT WAS SO BAD THAT SOME OF OUR AUTHORITIES FEARED IT WAS A CHEMICAL WEAPONS ATTACK FROM JAPANESE FORCES.

THE SMOG CONTINUED AND GOT WORSE IN THE 1950s AND 1960s, AS OUR ECONOMY THRIVED AND OUR POPULATION DOUBLED. LIKE BEIJING TODAY, 60 YEARS AGO IN LOS ANGELES, THE FUMES FROM OUR OIL REFINERIES, OUR STEEL AND CHEMICAL PLANTS, OUR TRASH INCINERATION, AND EXHAUST FROM OUR CARS ALL CONSPIRED TO POLLUTE THE CITY.

BUT THIS POLLUTION CAME WITH A HUGE HUMAN COST. BY THE TIME I WAS GROWING UP IN THE 1970s, ANGELENOS BREATHED SOME OF THE DIRTIEST AIR IN THE WORLD. THE PUBLIC HEALTH DANGERS WERE CLEAR: KIDS WERE KEPT FROM PLAYING OUTSIDE, BALL GAMES WERE CANCELLED, AND EMERGENCY ROOMS WERE FILLED WITH PEOPLE. THE MOST BASIC HUMAN REFLEX, BREATHING, LITERALLY HURT YOUR LUNGS.

AND THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF OUR AIR ON RESPIRATORY DISEASES AND CANCER THREATENED OUR LIFE EXPECTANCIES IN LOS ANGELES.

TODAY, I AM MAYOR OF A CITY THAT HAS SEEN ITS POPULATION DOUBLE AT THE SAME TIME WE HAVE REDUCED OZONE LEVELS BY ALMOST TWO-THIRDS.

WE HAVE BEAUTIFUL SUNNY DAYS WITH CLEAR SKIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. AND WHILE THERE REMAINS MORE WORK TO BE DONE, THIS SUCCESS HASN'T COME WITH AN ECONOMIC COST. QUITE THE CONTRARY, CLEANING UP OUR AIR HAS PRODUCED A HEALTHIER ECONOMY, JUST AS IT HAS PRODUCED A HEALTHIER CITY.

SO HOW DID WE ACHIEVE THIS?

THREE COMPONENTS:

- 1) FACING THE TRUTH AND ACCEPTING IT (SCIENCE AND THE OWNERSHIP),
- 2) BUILDING A STRONG GOVERNMENT ROLE AND REGIME FOR ENFORCEMENT,
- AND 3) ENGAGING A STRONG COALITION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND EVERYDAY PEOPLE TO CLEAN OUR AIR.

INITIAL DENIAL—USING POLITE WORDS LIKE “HAZE” AND “OVERCAST DAYS” BEGAN TO GIVE WAY AS 1950s RESEARCHERS AT CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PROVED IT WAS CARS CAUSING SMOG. IT'S HARD FOR US TO IMAGINE TODAY, BUT BACK THEN, NO ONE BELIEVED THAT CLEAR EXHAUST COULD CAUSE BROWN SMOG.

NEXT, GOVERNMENT GOT INVOLVED.

FIRST, IN 1963, THE U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PASSED THE CLEAN AIR ACT, THE FIRST LAW OF ITS KIND.

THEN IN 1966, CALIFORNIA'S STATE HIGHWAY POLICE BEGAN TESTING CARS RANDOMLY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE.

AND IN 1970, THE FIRST NATIONAL EMISSIONS STANDARDS FOR CARS PASSED—MARKING THE FIRST TIME A LAW LOOKED AT SMOG AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM.

ON THE LOCAL LEVEL IN LOS ANGELES, WHERE MOST OF THE POLLUTION IS CREATED, WE TOOK DRASTIC ACTION AT OUR PORT. WE LAUNCHED A COMPREHENSIVE CLEAN AIR ACTION PLAN THAT RESULTED IN A REDUCTION OF DIESEL PARTICULATE MATTER BY 80%, NITROGEN OXIDE BY 57%, SULFUR DIOXIDE BY 90% AND GREENHOUSE GASES BY 23% SINCE 2006.

THE LAST PIECE OF THE PUZZLE WAS COLLABORATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE PUBLIC.

INITIALLY, CAR COMPANIES DISMISSED THE CLAIMS, OIL COMPANIES RESISTED THE SCIENCE, AND FACTORIES DENIED THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THEIR ACTIVITIES AND POLLUTION.

BUT THE PEOPLE OF LOS ANGELES RECOGNIZED THE URGENCY OF IMPROVING THE AIR QUALITY THAT CHOKED OUR LUNGS AND CLOUDED OUR VISION. AND THEY DEMANDED A CHANGE.

GROUPS LIKE “STAMP OUT SMOG” -- A GROUP LED BY LOS ANGELES MOTHERS CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN’S HEALTH -- PUSHED LEADERS TO CREATE STRONG GOVERNMENTAL ENFORCEMENT, INCLUDING THE CREATION OF THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD AND THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, TO HAVE OVERRIDING POWER OVER OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO CLEAN OUR AIR.

AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR BEGAN TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE COSTS OF GROWING OUR BUSINESSES IRRESPONSIBLY.

ACCORDING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, “THE LACK OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT CONTROLS WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN CHILD IQ LOSS AND ADULT HYPERTENSION, HEART DISEASE, AND STROKE.” THEY ESTIMATE THAT THE U.S. SAVED BETWEEN \$6 AND \$50 TRILLION THANKS TO THE CLEAN AIR REGULATIONS.

EVEN NOW, LOS ANGELES STILL HAS HIGH LEVELS OF POLLUTION COMPARED TO THE UNITED STATES. THERE ARE CERTAIN UNAVOIDABLE REALITIES OF CITIES THAT ARE CENTERS OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION.

BUT WE HAVE MADE HUGE STRIDES. OUR AIR DIDN'T GET BETTER BECAUSE PEOPLE DECIDED TO STOP DRIVING. OUR POLLUTION SOLUTION WAS TO LOOK FOR ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS IN GREEN TECHNOLOGY THAT IMPROVED OUR HEALTH AND ADDED TO OUR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.

THERE IS A PERPETUAL, IRRATIONAL FEAR THAT REGULATION STYMIES GROWTH.

THAT IS SIMPLY NOT THE CASE. WHEN YOU PAIR REGULATION WITH INNOVATION, YOU GET A PRO-GROWTH POLICY.

TURNING TOWARD RENEWABLE ENERGY NOT ONLY IMPROVED LOS ANGELES' POLLUTION PROBLEM, IT SPARKED AN ENTIRELY NEW CLEAN TECH INDUSTRY THAT ATTRACTED NEW BUSINESS TO OUR CITY AND EMPLOYED THOUSANDS.

YESTERDAY, I ASCENDED TO THE 118TH FLOOR OF THE SHANGHAI TOWER, THE TALLEST BUILDING IN CHINA, A MARVEL OF HUMAN INNOVATION AND HARD WORK, DESIGNED BY LOS ANGELES-BASED ARCHITECTS AND BUILT BY CHINESE CAPITAL AND WORKERS. ITS INCREDIBLE DESIGN REDUCES ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY 21% AT THE SAME TIME IT MOVES THE CHINESE ECONOMY FORWARD.

IN SHENZHEN, BYD, A CHINESE COMPANY WITH ITS NORTH AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS IN LOS ANGELES, IS HELPING THAT CITY CONVERT ITS BUS AND TAXI FLEET TO ZERO-EMISSION ELECTRIC VEHICLES. IN LOS ANGELES, WE ARE TESTING THESE BUSES ON OUR STREETS AS WELL.

THERE IS A MARKET-BASED SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

TODAY, I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT LOS ANGELES HAS MORE GREEN JOBS THAN ANY REGION IN THE UNITED STATES. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE GREEN JOB SECTOR HAS GROWN AT TRIPLE THE RATE OF THE REST OF OUR CITY'S ECONOMY OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS.

NEW COMPANIES LIKE SAVESORB, WHOSE NEW HEADQUARTERS I HELPED OPEN IN SOUTHERN CHINA ON THIS TRIP, A COMPANY THAT HELPS KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN AND THAT CLEANS UP OUR HARBORS AND RIVERS FROM OIL SPILLS USING SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS.

DURING MY TENURE AS MAYOR, I WILL CREATE 20,000 NEW GREEN JOBS THAT WILL PUT OUR CITY TO WORK AND HELP SAVE OUR PLANET.

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION CAN BE USED TO ENHANCE THE PUBLIC GOOD.

TO DETERMINE THE BEST WAY TO GET THERE, LOS ANGELES HAS DEVELOPED AN EXTENSIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK BY PARTNERING WITH OUR TOP TIER UNIVERSITIES, INCLUDING CALTECH, UCLA, USC, NASA'S JET PROPULSION LABORATORY, AND BUSINESS GROUPS TO MAKE LOS ANGELES A GLOBAL CAPITAL OF CLEAN TECHNOLOGY.

AND WHILE THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA HAS INVESTED \$3.3 BILLION IN CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES SINCE 2008, WE WILL LIKELY INVEST \$10 BILLION OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS TO DRIVE OUR NEW GREEN ECONOMY.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES IS WELL BEYOND THE GOAL OF REDUCING EMISSIONS BY 20% AND HAVE ALREADY REACHED A 24% REDUCTION.

FURTHERMORE, BY PLEDGING TO MAKE OUR DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER COAL-FREE, WE'RE ON TARGET TO PROCURE ONE-THIRD OF OUR ENERGY FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES BY 2020, JUST FIVE YEARS FROM NOW.

THESE ARE MAJOR STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION FOR LOS ANGELES.

BUT, AS BEIJING WELL KNOWS, SUSTAINABILITY IS NOT AN "EITHER-OR" PROPOSITION.

SUSTAINABILITY IS A VALUE THAT CUTS ACROSS ALL WE DO. AND IT'S CORE TO OUR CITIES, OUR LIVES, AND OUR LIVELIHOODS.

BEIJING HAS BEEN A LONG TIME PARTNER OF C40.

AS A CITY THAT IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE CLEAN ENERGY REVOLUTION, BEIJING RECOGNIZED THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE RISKS EARLY ON AND HAS ADMIRABLY TAKEN A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN DEVELOPING NON-CARBON ENERGY ALTERNATIVES.

BREAKING OUR RELIANCE ON COAL IS NO EASY TASK. LUCKILY, WE'VE LEARNED FROM THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US.

I FIRST CAME TO CHINA AS A 13 YEAR-OLD IN 1984. I REMEMBER THE STREETS OF BEIJING. 99% BICYCLES, 1% CARS. WHEN I RETURNED IN 2002, IT WAS ABOUT 50-50 AND TODAY, IT IS 99% VEHICLES, AND A BICYCLE IS TOUGH TO FIND. THIS CHANGE -- THAT I HAVE SEEN WITH MY EYES -- IS TESTAMENT TO THE LARGEST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRANSFORMATION IN THE SHORTEST AMOUNT OF TIME IN HUMAN HISTORY.

TO THE STUDENTS OF PEKING UNIVERSITY, TOGETHER WITH YOUR PEERS IN LOS ANGELES AND AROUND THE WORLD, YOU ARE NOT THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW, YOU ARE ALREADY THE LEADERS OF TODAY.

WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU TO WORK WITH US TO HELP THIS PLANET PROGRESS ECONOMICALLY AND ECOLOGICALLY.

BY REACHING ACROSS THE PACIFIC, THROUGH COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION, YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO REROUTE THE COURSE OF HISTORY. AND IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO REMIND THE WORLD THAT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS GO HAND IN HAND.

THIS IS GOING TO BE A PACIFIC CENTURY—ONE THAT WE EMBRACE AND INTEND TO LEAD WITH YOU.

AFTER ALL, WHILE EUROPE AND THE EAST COAST MIGHT CALL CHINA "THE FAR EAST," FOR LOS ANGELES, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN "THE NEAR WEST."

I HAVE SEEN THE HUMAN SPIRIT CLEAN THE AIR OF MY CITY AND BUILD THE ECONOMIC MIRACLE OF MODERN CHINA. LET US TAKE THAT SPIRIT WITH US TO WRITE THE NEXT GREAT CHAPTER OF HUMAN HISTORY TOGETHER. THANK YOU.

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