

From: Robert Pollin <pollin@econs.umass.edu>

Subject: 2020 Climate Courage Award

Date: December 14, 2020 at 7:57:36 AM MST

To: "ccli@takeresponsibility.us" <ccli@takeresponsibility.us>

Cc: Noam Chomsky <chomsky@mit.edu>, CJ Polychroniou <cjpolychroniou@gmail.com>, Natascha Elena <natascha@versobooks.com>

Dear Mr. Hirsch,

I am just now seeing the letter you wrote on November 17 to Professor Chomsky and myself, and sent to my University of Massachusetts office. Because the university has been shut down since mid-March due to COVID, the mail delivery system is very slow and uneven—and this is on top of Trump’s efforts to destroy the U.S. postal service.

That is why has taken me so long to respond to the very good news that the Climate Change Leadership Institute has awarded your Courage Award this year to Professor Chomsky and myself. I am really quite honored, and I am sure Noam will be as well. Perhaps he has already seen a similar letter from you. If not, I will make sure to send him a copy of this one.

I am especially honored since your letter explains that your organization emphasizes “solutions to climate change that empower the community.” That same commitment is certainly at the center of the small book Noam and I have written along with C.J. Polychroniou. In this same spirit, it is great that you have made a contribution to the Sunrise Movement in our names. The Sunrise Movement is doing critically important work. As it happens, the leader of the organization, Varshini Prakash, is a recent graduate of UMass. I understand she got started as an organizer with the UMass divestment campaign, which was one of the early big successes around this kind of action.

Thank you again, and best of luck in advancing your own important work.

Regards, Bob Pollin