**Note to Alumni:** This is only a template; your letter will carry even greater weight if you personalize it. If it is possible for you to coordinate a letter drop off or mass- mailing with other concerned alums, the impact of your action will be amplified.

The content of this letter was originally developed by the students of Swarthmore Mountain Justice and the Responsible Endowments Coalition.

Name of University President
President, Your University
City, State Zipcode

**Re: Fossil Fuel Divestment**

Dear President X:

As a graduate of \_\_\_\_\_, I know firsthand the high quality of education provided to students. I appreciate not only the education I received, but also the values that \_\_\_\_\_\_ instilled in me—a critical perspective on the world and a focus on social justice. I am also proud that the college has become a leader in sustainability and sought to involve students in decision-making.

Considering this leadership role, I find it contradictory that \_\_\_\_\_\_ invests its endowment—and therefore alumni donations—in the fossil fuel industry. Extraction and consumption of fossil fuels pollute the natural environment, deteriorate health, and exacerbate climate change. Though we all feel these impacts, they disproportionately affect poor communities and communities of color, many of which have been working against the fossil fuel industry for decades.

Unfortunately, efforts to transition away from fossil fuels have been hindered by the industry’s money, political connections, and tacit acceptance from institutions like ours. This is where \_\_\_\_\_\_ can play a role by publicly ending its investments in fossil fuels. A mass divestment movement can both harm these corporations’ bottom lines, and delegitimize them in the court of public opinion, aiding local communities' efforts to reclaim their land, health, and economies. Many leaders in the environmental community have joined students on more than 200 campuses across the country in calling for divestment. Students have already raised this issue on campus, giving \_\_\_\_\_\_ the opportunity to lead this blossoming movement.

**Optional:** Additionally, I would be thrilled to commit to pledging $X to the university once fossil fuel divestment has been achieved. I believe this transition is fundamentally important to the integrity of this institution and plan on encouraging other alumni to make the same commitment.

I believe that the university should, in addition to divesting, ensure that its entire endowment is sustainability managed. Our institution has a stated mission and enshrines our values in policies that affect all campus operations. Adding such values to our investment criteria would not only strengthen our mission, it would also provide a superb example of the active ownership our graduates should seek to practice.

Reliance on fossil fuels is an environmental and human rights crisis that demands bold action. I ask that \_\_\_\_\_\_ divest its endowment from the fossil fuel industry.

Sincerely yours,

Name

Class of ‘