

of millions of Americans who are working hard every day. It's more than talk, it's action. And that's what you should demand of every politician who wants the privilege to serve you.

Thanks, everybody, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 1:10 p.m. on September 29 in the

Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast on October 1. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 30, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on October 1. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the White House South by South Lawn Festival *October 3, 2016*

Whenever I hear people make gloomy claims about how America is on the downswing, they're either out to promote themselves, or talking about some alternate reality. Think about it—if you had to choose any time in the course of human history to be alive, you'd choose this one. Right here, right now, right in America.

New technologies and new innovations are transforming the way we live, opening up incredible opportunities to create, to discover, and to do what we never thought possible.

At the same time, we have to navigate these changes in a smart way. They also can be disruptive, even scary—and sometimes, they leave folks behind.

Our task is to come together and build a future that's more inclusive, tolerant, and full of opportunity for everybody. And I've never been more optimistic that we will.

As President, I've spent the last eight years finding the best people to help us meet that challenge. People who reject cynicism. People who turn change into a force for good. People who believe that, no matter who we are, where we come from, who we love, or what God we pray to, we—the people—can create a world that's worthy of our brightest hopes.

So today, I'm inviting a bunch of these folks to my backyard for South by South Lawn.

Much like the festival I dropped by in Austin earlier this year, SXSL is, at its heart, a call to action. The folks out on the lawn today are artists, creators, entrepreneurs, and innovators who will share how they've used their unique skills to engage their communities in making

the change they want to see—whether it's curing cancer, fighting poverty, empowering women, and so much more.

We'll welcome people like Jukay Hsu, an Iraq War veteran with a Bronze Star for his service to our country who uses technology to build a path out of poverty for people in Queens. Or Oscar Menjivar, who is pushing schools in Los Angeles to bring technology into the classroom so kids can get a head start on coding. Or Dr. Nina Tandon, the founder of the world's first company growing living human bones to help with reconstruction and recovery.

Those are just a few of the incredible people you'll see out at South by South Lawn all day today. And believe me—it's a sight to see.

We've got an art installation made entirely of sticky notes where people share how they will make a positive impact where they live. We've got a virtual reality exhibit where people can experience what it's like to live in solitary confinement and learn firsthand why it should be banned from our prisons.

We'll discuss questions that will define the coming decades: How do we harness technology to solve our most stubborn problems? How will we sustainably feed ourselves in the near future? How do we foster innovation in the heart of our cities? How do we, as citizens, engage to bring about lasting change?

And I'll join a conversation with Dr. Katherine Hayhoe, a climate scientist, and Leonardo DiCaprio, a longtime ally in the fight against climate change, to explore how we can move forward in our efforts to protect the one planet

we've got. Leo is also debuting his documentary film on climate change tonight.

Given his day job, I'm betting it's pretty good.

So join us today on the South Lawn to see how you can lend a hand in building a world we want to live in.

That's our responsibility as citizens. That doesn't mean this has to be your full-time job. It doesn't mean you have to run for office or launch a start-up. But it does mean that whatever field you're in, whatever skill you have, whatever passion you're pursuing, you can find a way to engage, to participate, and to make a difference.

See you on the lawn,

PRESIDENT OBAMA

NOTE: This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 2 as an e-mail message from the President to be distributed on October 3. The statement referred to Jukay Hsu, founder, Coalition for Queens; Oscar Menjivar, founder and chief executive officer, URBAN Teens eXploring Technology; Nina Tandon, chief executive officer and co-founder, EpiBone; Katharine Hayhoe, associate professor of political science and director of the Climate Science Center, Texas Tech University; and actor and producer Leonardo DiCaprio.

Remarks During a Panel Discussion on Climate Change at the White House South by South Lawn Festival October 3, 2016

The President. Hello, everybody.

Actor and producer Leonardo DiCaprio. I want to thank you all for coming here this evening. I want to particularly thank our President for his extraordinary environmental leadership. [Applause]

The President. Thank you.

Mr. DiCaprio. Most recently, in protecting our oceans.

Katharine, thank you for the great work you do on climate change and in helping improve preparedness of communities to deal with the impacts of climate change.

And thank all of you for showing up here this evening.

Tonight I am pleased to present the U.S. premier of my new documentary, "Before the Flood." This was a 3-year endeavor on the part of myself and my director, Fisher Stevens. Together, we traveled from China to India, to Greenland, to the Arctic, Indonesia to Micronesia, to Miami to learn more about the effects of climate change on our planet and highlight the message from the scientific community and leaders worldwide on the urgency of the issue.

This film was developed to show the devastating impacts that climate change is having on

our planet and, more importantly, what can be done. Our intention for the film was to be released before this upcoming election, because, after experiencing firsthand the devastating impacts of climate change worldwide, we, like many of you here today, realize that urgent action must be taken.

This moment is more important than ever. We must empower leaders who not only believe in climate change, but are willing to do something about it. The scientific consensus is in, and the argument is now over. If you do not believe in climate change, you do not believe in facts or in science or empirical truths, and therefore, in my humble opinion, should not be allowed to hold public office.

So, with that, I'm so very honored and pleased to be joined onstage with one of those leaders, a President who has done more to create solutions for the climate crisis than any other in history, President Barack Obama—

The President. Yay! Thank you.

Mr. DiCaprio. —along with leading climate scientist, Katharine Hayhoe, for this conversation about how we can make real progress on this issue.