

I would like to welcome everyone to the event this afternoon. I'm Harley Shaiken, chair of the Center for Latin American Studies.

President Bachelet, Ministers Foxley, Lavados, and Tokman, Ambassador Fernandez and Ambassador Simons, and distinguished Chilean guests,

We are especially pleased and deeply honored to welcome you to the Berkeley campus. President Bachelet your lifelong commitment to human rights and democratic values, often at great personal cost, have a special relevance and meaning at this unique university. Your current focus on this trip to California on higher education, a sustainable environment, and alternative energy engage the defining challenges of the twenty first century.

Your visit says that we can far more effectively address these challenges by working together than standing apart. The Chile-California agreement could prove to be the cornerstone for an Alliance for Green Prosperity throughout the Americas.

Chile and California share an ocean and an intersecting history; both have spectacular mountains and beautiful vineyards, and both have produced great poets to capture the magic of our lands.

Let me conclude with a small preview of how a Chile-California partnership might work. I will read a brief

excerpt from a poem by Pablo Neruda, especially appropriate on this sun-drenched day, in a collection translated, in part, by our friend and Berkeley colleague, Robert Haas, the 2008 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for poetry:

It pleased me to grow with the morning,
To bathe in the sun, in the great joy
Of sun, salt, sea-light and wave,

Let me repeat that last line “of sun, salt, sea-light and wave.” That is our heritage and we want it to be our legacy.

This visit seeks to make the sun our ally in creating energy in Chile and California rather than an enemy in warming the earth. That too will be poetry.

It is a great pleasure to introduce our Chancellor, Robert J. Birgeneau.