

August 3, 2009

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Blue Green Alliance, we urge you to take a proactive stance in moving America to a clean energy economy by passing strong clean energy legislation. We believe that we have the unique opportunity to create long-lasting, high-quality jobs and stave off the worst effects of climate change. With your support, we can build on the success of the House passage of the American Clean Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454) and ensure that the legislation that comes out of the Senate meets our shared goals.

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Capping carbon emissions will create the necessary incentives for America to cultivate its clean energy economy. We urge you to set strong, science-based targets for reducing emissions, at least as strong as the targets set in H.R. 2454. Without the certainty of true emissions reduction, we can achieve neither our environmental goals nor our job creation goals. In addition to setting a firm emissions cap, we support achieving additional emissions reductions through funding to combat deforestation.

In addition to a strong cap on carbon emissions, we need a strong, national Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) and Energy Efficiency Resource Standard that will drive the expansion of the American clean energy economy and make the U.S. a leader in the increasingly competitive global clean energy industry. Our recent report, *How to Revitalize America's Middle Class with the Clean Energy Economy*, shows that implementation of a policy like Senators Tom Udall and Mark Udall's S. 433, which establishes a 25 percent by 2025 RES, could create more than 850,000 manufacturing jobs across America. A strong cap combined with an RES and EERS will reduce emissions in the most cost-effective way while providing the foundation upon which to build America's clean energy economy.

Reviving America's manufacturing base is one of our top priorities. The transition to a clean energy economy is a tremendous opportunity for strengthening and expanding American manufacturing. Those working in energy and trade intensive industries can produce the steel, glass and cement the clean technology industry needs so long as we provide the proper investment and protections.

To prevent leakage of jobs and carbon pollution during the early years of the transition, we urge you to allocate allowance value to energy-intensive, trade-exposed industries. We also believe legislation should include border adjustment provisions to ensure the fair treatment of American workers if countries fail to address global climate change after those allocations phase out.

Climate and energy legislation should also provide incentives to help our manufacturing base convert to the clean energy economy. We urge you to include provisions like Sen. Brown's IMPACT Act, which creates a revolving loan program in states to provide financing to small and medium manufacturers to fund clean energy manufacturing projects. Legislation should also include funding to help develop markets for American clean energy technologies in developing countries that take part in the global effort to reduce emissions.

Energy saved is just as important as energy produced. It saves people and businesses money, reduces our reliance on fossil fuels and creates jobs. Increased investments in energy efficiency would create more opportunities for high-road construction jobs and make our transition to a clean energy economy smoother and more expeditious. From retrofitting factories and buildings to weatherizing homes and apartment buildings, and ensuring that they are operated and maintained to stay green, our country's workers can implement energy efficiency improvements immediately. We ask that you support a dedicated investment in energy efficiency to support and accelerate this implementation.

Our workforce must have all the necessary tools and knowledge to successfully work in green jobs. We can do this by offering training for all who want the opportunity. We believe that the Green Jobs Act of 2007 gives us the best framework for training and implementation of these jobs in a fair and equitable manner. We urge you to provide a significant allocation of allowance value to fund this provision. We also believe that H.R. 2454 crafted a positive framework to help those workers affected by the transition to a clean energy economy. We urge you to include these provisions and similar funding levels as well.

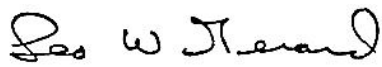
The House bill includes two provisions that further open doors to the emerging clean energy economy. The Clean Energy Curriculum Development Grants gives the Secretary of Education the ability to fund programs at higher education institutions to develop programs that prepare students for careers in the new economy.

The Green Construction Careers Demonstration Project establishes a program that will promote quality employment practices that are accessible to low-income communities and workers. We ask that both of these provisions are included and receive the necessary funding.

Congress has shown tremendous commitment to ensuring that American workers are treated fairly, their jobs maintained during the early years of the transition and that good, long-lasting jobs are created in the clean energy economy. We appreciate the inclusion of prevailing wage provisions in the House bill and ask that the Senate bill require that all federally-funded construction jobs be subject to prevailing wages. We also ask that you expand opportunities to provide quality jobs in the clean energy economy for all Americans. All new jobs funded in part or in whole by the Federal government should pay fair wages and benefits and contractors should pay a living wage and abide by responsible contracting principles.

We look forward to working with you to pass what could and should be the greatest job-creating bill ever passed by the U.S. Congress. This is a rare chance to combine our nation's challenges — energy, economy and climate change — and begin to tackle them together.

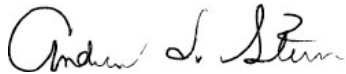
Sincerely,



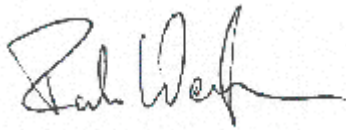
Leo W. Gerard, International President
United Steelworkers



Larry Cohen, President
Communications Workers of America



Andy Stern, President
Service Employees International Union



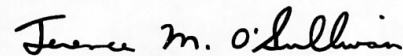
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American Federation of Teachers



Carl Pope, Executive Director
Sierra Club



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Natural Resources Defense Council



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