

**American Rivers \* Clean Water Action \* Defenders of Wildlife \* Earthjustice  
Environment America \* Environmental Law & Policy Center \* Izaak Walton League  
League of Conservation Voters \* National Audubon Society  
National Tribal Environmental Council \* National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council \* Sierra Club  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy \* The Wilderness Society  
Trust for Public Land \* Union of Concerned Scientists \* World Wildlife Fund**

Chairman Max Baucus  
Senate Finance Committee

Ranking Member Charles Grassley  
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Senate Energy and Natural Resources

Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources

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Environment and Public Works

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Ranking Member Richard Lugar  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Chairman Blanche Lincoln  
Senate Agriculture Committee

Ranking Member Saxby Chambliss  
Senate Agriculture Committee

Chairman John Rockefeller  
Senate Commerce Committee

Ranking Member Kay Bailey Hutchinson  
Senate Commerce Committee

December 1, 2009

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the millions of members and volunteers that our organizations represent, we write to thank you for your leadership and to underscore the urgent need to enact comprehensive energy and climate legislation to cut carbon pollution, create millions of new jobs, and enhance our national security. We look forward to working with you as you shape a bill for final Senate action. With that in mind, we outline our priorities for a bill below.

**Reduce Emissions to Avoid Dangerous Global Warming**

*Ensure That Action Begins Now to Cut Global Warming Pollution to Levels Commensurate with the Science.*

The U.S. can achieve at least a 20 percent reduction in emissions by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050. Putting off action now will force us either to make even faster reductions later, or to suffer more severe climate impacts. The latest science shows that climate change impacts are coming on even faster and with greater severity than previously expected. Effective climate legislation must ensure that our policies respond to emerging science.

*Make Emissions Targets Certain, Meaningful, and Enforceable.*

Effective climate legislation requires enforceable, rigorous, and transparent targets. Cost-containment measures must not break the cap. Domestic and international offsets need to be limited as well as real, additional, verifiable, permanent, and enforceable. Developing new markets for biofuels and biomass-fired electricity represents a historic opportunity for rural development, but these goals must be accomplished with scientific integrity and full accounting. The carbon accounting system should require a lifecycle accounting for bioenergy sources, as well as other fuels, to ensure we develop resources that reduce global warming pollution and avoid those that make the problem worse.

*Clean Up the Most Polluting Sources.*

The new program to cap and reduce carbon pollution should build on, not replace, the existing Clean Air Act, just as Congress did when addressing acid rain, meaning that coal plants and other big smokestack industries must meet modern standards for global warming pollution.

**Enhance National and Global Security**

*Invest in Clean Transportation to Reduce Dependence on Foreign Oil.*

By investing in the next generation of clean vehicles, and the infrastructure necessary to support them, we can accelerate the deployment of technologies needed to shift passenger vehicles and freight off of oil and keep billions of dollars in the U.S. economy. By setting greenhouse gas targets, requiring plans to achieve those targets within the transportation sector, and providing the resources needed to build low carbon transportation choices – including electrified transit and rail, alternative fuel buses, and walking and biking access – energy and climate legislation can assure that this sector achieves emissions reductions commensurate with the bill's overall reduction targets and helps break our addiction to oil.

*Prioritize Oil Recovery from Existing Oil Operations.*

Billions of barrels of oil can be recovered from existing onshore oilfields with proven technology for enhanced oil recovery using CO<sub>2</sub> captured from power plants and industrial facilities. Energy and climate legislation will make this technology even more cost-competitive, helping to meet our energy needs with domestic supplies as we reduce our addiction to oil.

*Protect Vulnerable Communities and Invest in a Global Solution.*

The impacts of climate change are already being felt in the most vulnerable communities and landscapes here and around the globe. Energy and climate legislation should devote adequate resources to preventing tropical deforestation, protecting natural resources, helping vulnerable people and wildlife adapt to unavoidable impacts, and helping developing countries adopt clean energy technologies.

**Create More Clean Energy Jobs for America**

*Invest in Efficiency.*

Energy efficiency is the fastest and cheapest way to reduce global warming pollution. We can create hundreds of thousands of good jobs and save consumers and businesses tens of billions of dollars by adopting strong national energy efficiency policies. Such policies include a requirement that utilities invest an amount equivalent to one-third of the allowances they receive in energy efficiency programs, a strong national building energy efficiency code, a robust utility energy efficiency resource standard, and allowances to support state and local government energy efficiency programs.

*Deploy Renewable Energy.*

Strong carbon limits coupled with a strong national Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) will expand the American clean energy economy and make the U.S. a leader in the increasingly competitive global marketplace. A 25 percent by 2025 RES would create almost 300,000 new jobs across America. Climate and energy legislation should also include robust allocations of allowances to support the deployment of promising renewable electricity technologies and fund clean energy research, development, and demonstration programs.

*Support Domestic Manufacturing*

Energy and climate legislation should be designed to help American manufacturing reduce its carbon emissions without shifting emissions, production, or jobs to other countries. Legislation should invest in cleaner and more efficient production methods to help both our existing manufacturing base and our new clean energy growth industries prosper.

The nation needs strong legislation to jump-start a clean energy economy, create millions of clean energy jobs, and reduce global warming pollution. Again, we look forward to continuing to work with you to move such a bill through the Senate.

Sincerely,

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President  
American Rivers

Jerry Pardilla  
Executive Director  
National Tribal Environmental Council

John De Cock  
President  
Clean Water Action

Frances Beinecke  
President  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Rodger Schlickeisen  
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Defenders of Wildlife

Carl Pope  
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Gene Karpinski  
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League of Conservation Voters

Carter Roberts  
President and CEO  
World Wildlife Fund

John Flicker  
President  
National Audubon Society

Larry Schweiger  
President and CEO  
National Wildlife Federation

CC:

Majority Leader Harry Reid  
Minority Leader Mitch McConnell  
The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
The Honorable Joe Lieberman