



June 22, 2009

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Blue Green Alliance, a national partnership between the United Steelworkers (USW), Sierra Club, Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Communications Workers of America (CWA), the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA), we urge you to defend, strengthen, and ultimately pass H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act. We believe that this legislation will advance our country towards a clean energy economy.

Capping carbon emissions and creating a federal mandate for renewable energy usage will create the necessary incentives for our country to evolve into a clean energy economy. Providing allocations to energy- and trade-intensive industries will give our manufacturing base the chance to transition without losing jobs in the early years of the program. The many new jobs created by the bill will be good quality jobs, thanks to worker protection provisions included in the committee report.

We believe that with a few key improvements, the final product can be significantly strengthened. As seen by our most recent report, *How to Revitalize America's Middle Class with the Clean Energy Economy*, renewable energy production and a sincere dedication to energy efficiency have substantial job-creating potential.

We ask that every effort be made to strengthen the targets of the Renewable Electricity Standard, preferably to 20 percent by 2020 — with the flexibility to achieve an extra 3 percent via efficiency gains. In addition, we ask that you include an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard, which requires utilities to achieve 10 percent energy efficiency by 2020.

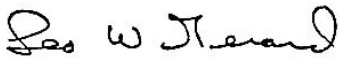
Increased investments in energy efficiency would create more opportunities for high road construction jobs and make our transition to a clean energy economy smoother and expeditious. From retrofitting factories to weatherizing homes and apartment buildings, and ensuring that they are operated and maintained to stay green, our country's workers have the know-how to implement energy efficiency improvements immediately. Dedicating revenues to training and implementation would give workers the one thing they are missing: the opportunity. We ask that you will support any effort to increase the dedicated investment in energy efficiency within this legislation. We also ask that you expand opportunities to provide job equality in the clean energy economy for all Americans.

Congress has shown tremendous commitment to ensuring that American workers are treated fairly and their jobs maintained during the early years of the transition to a clean energy economy. The allocation of allowances to energy-intensive, trade-exposed industries in the bill will prevent the leakage of jobs and carbon pollution during this transition period. We urge congress to maintain these leakage-prevention measures and strengthen provisions to ensure the fair treatment of American workers if countries fail to address global climate change after those allocations phase out.

Along with these efforts, we ask that you oppose any effort to weaken the bill's environmental integrity, job-creating potential, worker protections, and prevailing wage provisions. Further weakening of these principles would seriously undermine the effect of this bill, which has enormous potential to reinvigorate our economy, bolster our manufacturing base and signify to the rest of the world our leadership on clean energy and climate change.

We have an opportunity to pass a seminal piece of legislation in our country's history. This is a rare chance to tie together our nation's problems — energy, economy and climate change — and begin to tackle them together. We hope that you will join us in taking this step forward, by strengthening and passing the American Clean Energy and Security Act.

Sincerely,



Leo W. Gerard, International President
United Steelworkers



David Foster, Executive Director
Blue Green Alliance



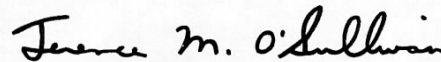
Carl Pope, Executive Director
Sierra Club



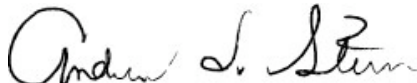
Frances Beinecke, President
Natural Resources Defense Council



Larry Cohen, President
Communications Workers of America



Terence M. O'Sullivan, General President
Laborers' International Union of North America



Andy Stern, President
Service Employees International Union



D. Michael Langford, National President
Utility Workers Union of America