

1Sky ♦ Alaska Wilderness League ♦ American Rivers ♦ Blue Green Alliance ♦ Center for American Progress Action Fund ♦ Center for Biological Diversity ♦ Center for International Environmental Law ♦ Ceres ♦ Clean Water Action ♦ Climate Solutions ♦ Defenders of Wildlife ♦ Earthjustice ♦ ENE (Environment Northeast) ♦ Environment America ♦ Environmental Defense Fund ♦ Friends Committee on National Legislation ♦ Friends of the Earth ♦ Greenpeace ♦ Interfaith Power and Light ♦ Jewish Council on Public Affairs ♦ League of Conservation Voters ♦ League of Women Voters of the United States ♦ National Audubon Society ♦ National Hispanic Environmental Council ♦ National Parks Conservation Association ♦ National Tribal Environmental Council ♦ National Wildlife Federation ♦ Native American Rights Fund ♦ Natural Resources Defense Council ♦ Oceana ♦ Ocean Conservancy ♦ Oxfam America ♦ Pew Environment Group ♦ Physicians for Social Responsibility ♦ Second Nature ♦ Sierra Club ♦ Southern Alliance for Clean Energy ♦ The Campaign For Environmental Literacy ♦ The Trust for Public Land ♦ The Wilderness Society ♦ Union for Reform Judaism ♦ Union of Concerned Scientists ♦ VoteVets ♦ World Wildlife Fund

July 28, 2009

Dear Senator:

As the Senate turns to the urgent task of energy and climate legislation, we urge you to recognize that America is at a crossroads: we can choose a future that creates clean-energy jobs, reduces dependence on oil, and cuts carbon pollution, or we can continue the 20th century energy policies that last year alone delivered \$4-a-gallon gas, sent many billions from American consumers' wallets to petro-dictators, and added 7 billion tons of heat-trapping pollutants to the atmosphere. On behalf of the millions of members and volunteers that our organizations represent, we urge you to take the clean energy path.

The keys to unlocking a clean energy future are placing a firm limit on carbon pollution and establishing strong clean energy standards. Companies across the country will respond with immediate and substantial investments in new renewable energy and efficiency projects and technologies that will create jobs, help drive the economic recovery, and bring low income workers and communities out of poverty and into our shared prosperity. If we reduce our pollution enough, not only can we avoid the most damaging and costly impacts of global warming, we can ensure that clean energy investments will be made quickly – increasing our competitiveness in a global clean energy market that could reach nearly \$2 trillion in the next decade. Further, strong clean energy standards will create millions of new American jobs, help rebuild our economy on a sound footing, and reduce the cost of meeting the cap. If we fail to act promptly, we risk other nations taking the lead in creating those jobs and irreversible consequences to our environment. And America will miss a critical opportunity to provide global leadership in reaching an international climate agreement at the negotiations in Copenhagen this December.

Failing to act to address global warming in this moment is not a viable choice. Our national security is at risk: retired generals and admirals have said that the U.S. military will be drawn into international conflicts caused by large-scale migrations, border tensions, and conflicts over food and water resulting from climate change. Our economy is at risk: the cost to the U.S. of dealing with floods, drought, and storms alone could be trillions of dollars. Our natural resources are at risk: eroding shorelines, dying forests, and disappearing water are harming fish, wildlife, Indian tribes, and rural communities. And our public health is at risk: more heat waves will mean more heat-related deaths and illnesses, and spreading disease-carrying animals and insects will mean more sickness across the U.S. It is time for a comprehensive climate and energy plan that will benefit consumers, workers, and businesses, while protecting public health, national security, and America's natural heritage.

With America at this crossroads, the urgency to act is clear and the need for strong leadership is paramount.

We must put the U.S. on the path to significant emissions reductions, a stronger economy, and a new position of leadership in the global effort to stabilize our climate. And with your leadership, we can get this done. We stand ready to work with you and all members of Congress to deliver a strong climate and energy bill to the President's desk this year.

Sincerely,

1Sky
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Blue Green Alliance
Center for American Progress Action Fund
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for International Environmental Law
Ceres
Clean Water Action
Climate Solutions
Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice
ENE (Environment Northeast)
Environment America
Environmental Defense Fund
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends of the Earth
Greenpeace
Interfaith Power and Light
Jewish Council on Public Affairs
League of Conservation Voters

League of Women Voters of the United States
National Audubon Society
National Hispanic Environmental Council
National Parks Conservation Association
National Tribal Environmental Council
National Wildlife Federation
Native American Rights Fund
Natural Resources Defense Council
Oceana
Ocean Conservancy
Oxfam America
Pew Environment Group
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Second Nature
Sierra Club
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
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