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## *Domestic Climate Bill: Key Piece of an International Climate Agreement*

The new Congress offers great hope for important work on domestic climate and energy policies. Strong domestic action on climate is a necessary condition for addressing the climate crisis, but it alone is not sufficient.

### ***The climate crisis is a global problem and requires a global partnership to reduce emissions.***

- We won't address increased wildfires in California or hurricanes on the Gulf Coast by simply reducing emissions in the United States; we need a plan to reduce emissions globally.
- Without a global response, we face grave impacts to ecosystems and species, as well as threats to global food security, freshwater availability and political security throughout the world.

### ***A new global climate agreement is in the best interests of US foreign policy and national security.***

- Strong action on climate change is a key priority for many of our allies; America leadership on climate will help rebuild America's standing in the world and advance our other priorities.
- The Military Advisory Board (11 retired four-star and three-star admirals and generals) called climate change a "threat multiplier" in an already fragile world. "We will pay for this one way or another," said retired General Anthony Zinni. "We will pay to reduce greenhouse gas emissions today . . . or we will pay the price later in military terms. And that will involve human lives."
- A global climate deal offers the chance to avoid these dangers by limiting the damage of climate change and protecting the poorest communities and most fragile ecosystems from its impacts.

### ***How we design domestic climate legislation directly affects the success of international negotiations.***

The Bali Action Plan, agreed to by the Bush Administration in 2007, calls for US support in four key areas, including financing to help developing countries reduce emissions and adapt to the worst impacts of climate change. Investing a modest portion of allowance value towards reducing global emissions is morally right (given historical US emissions) and a smart down payment on a safer, more stable world.

The 4 areas from the Bali Action Plan are all related to US climate legislation:

- (1) **Strong US Emissions Reductions:** The most important signal the US can send in the negotiations is passing a strong emissions reduction commitment. As proposed in the American Clean Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454), this can be achieved by a "dual target": (a) a strong domestic cap; (b) support for supplemental emissions reductions in the developing world. The domestic cap should include limited offsets, so that clean energy jobs and industries are created.

In an attempt to avoid catastrophic climate change and in keeping with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the US dual target should be 25%-40% below

1990 levels by 2020 and 80-90% below that level by 2050. This will create a strong signal to the markets for a clean energy transformation in America, deeply reduce our dependence on foreign oil and spur American innovation and job creation.

- (2) **Stop Emissions from Tropical Deforestation:** We cannot solve the climate crisis without finding a way to stop emissions from deforestation (the second largest source of global emissions). Deforestation offers one of the lowest-cost options for reducing emissions. If done right, it will protect biodiversity and the rights of indigenous peoples. A smartly designed program can produce emissions reductions that are real and third-party verifiable, not “hot air.”

As proposed by H.R. 2454, at least 5% of allowance value should be dedicated to reducing deforestation emissions and so produce reductions that are supplemental to a domestic US cap. This level of support is a small fraction of the global financial need to stop deforestation emissions, but it is a start. If offsets are also used, they should include strong safeguards to ensure developing countries commit to national efforts to reduce deforestation, rather than allowing only a project-by-project approach.

- (3) **Reducing Emissions Through Clean Technology Cooperation:** If we don't keep emissions in check in the developing world, we won't stop climate change. This requires: (a) reducing existing emissions from industry; and (b) using clean energy to help the world's energy poor. Targeted investments can catalyze new clean energy markets and keep developed countries from getting “locked in” to dirty development pathways that will undermine our efforts to reduce global emissions. This will also open up markets for clean energy products and help level the playing field for US companies. 5% of allowance value should be dedicated to clean energy cooperation.

- (4) **Helping the World's Most Vulnerable People Adapt to Climate Change:** Climate change is already having a disproportionate impact on the world's poor. Increased water scarcity, intensified weather events and reduced agricultural productivity are just some of the effects they are currently experiencing. These impacts can fuel migration, refugee crises and conflict - increasing global security risks. Providing impoverished communities and countries with the resources necessary to build resilience and adapt to these impacts is critical to our own national security. Because the market will largely not be attracted to investing in climate adaptation needs, additional public funds are necessary. 7% of allowance value should be dedicated to helping the world's poor adapt to climate change.

***Taking action now in domestic climate legislation to help reduce global emissions will provide the President the tools he needs to rebuild American leadership abroad and reach a strong agreement to reduce global emissions. The need for international investments to promote an energy revolution are great, but we must do our fair share, take action to protect our security interests, and seize this opportunity to create a global clean energy economy.***

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