



Leo W. Gerard
International President

June 25, 2009

VIA FAX

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

Since 1990, the United Steelworkers have been convinced that addressing the potentially catastrophic effects of global climate change is the challenge of our generation. This problem must be solved now and not passed along to our children. To that end, we are pleased to see that the House of Representatives will soon consider H.R. 2454, a strong bill to meet the challenge of global climate change while transforming the American economy into a world leader in clean energy and products. We urge you to continue to improve and pass this crucial legislation.

Climate change is a global problem that requires a global solution. While it is right for America to cap and reduce its carbon emissions, we must ensure that those reductions at home are not simply offset by increases in emissions in other nations. Failure to address this leakage of carbon to other countries would be devastating to the American economy, as thousands and perhaps millions of jobs would be lost. In addition, a climate policy that does not address leakage concerns would make the problem of climate change worse overall because American manufacturers are among the cleanest and most energy-efficient in the world and shifting that production to less-efficient, high carbon emitting countries will result in more carbon being emitted globally.

We are pleased that the House leadership; as well as Chairmen Waxman, Markey, Rangel, and Levin; Reps. Doyle and Inslee; and the many members who helped to craft this bill realize that this potential carbon leakage is a critical issue, and have designed a comprehensive program to prevent it. The output-based rebate program designed by Mr. Doyle and Mr. Inslee will allow American manufacturers to accelerate their transition to clean energy technologies while maintaining production and jobs.

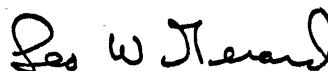
Still, these rebates are only half of a comprehensive leakage-prevention program. They will allow American manufacturers to navigate the transition to a clean energy economy, and allow time for the development of a long-term solution. This long-term solution must address the international component, either through an enforceable global agreement that ensures that all nations bear the costs of addressing climate change or, if such an agreement cannot be reached, through a strong border adjustment provision. This border adjustment will prevent American workers from being disadvantaged when competing with producers in nations that have not made the same commitment to solving climate change as the United States. We applaud the work that Chairmen Rangel and Levin and the Ways and Means Committee have done to strengthen the border adjustment provisions in this bill, and urge all members, as well as members of the Senate, to continue to strengthen this vital provision and ensure that it be a key part of America's strategy to find a global solution to a global problem.

By ensuring that nations that do not share our commitment to this cause cannot profit from our attempt to prevent global warming, America can lead the way toward a comprehensive, enforceable global agreement to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Access to our consumer market is our most valuable leverage in these negotiations, and by including strong provisions to prevent leakage, this bill sends a strong message to every nation in the world that they must come to the table and help us find a solution. The privilege of being able to sell to the American consumer brings with it the shared responsibility to improve the global environment for future generations.

Again, we applaud all of the work done by the leadership, the chairmen, the committees, and all the members of the House who care about preserving and creating good American jobs. The legislative process that has brought us all to this point was long and arduous, and we are grateful for the amount of careful attention that was paid to the needs of stakeholders. We look forward to continuing to work productively with all members of the House and the Senate to strengthen these and other provisions of this bill, in the hope that sometime soon the President will sign this bill and usher in a new clean energy age in America. It will be a long journey and in many ways only begins with the question before the House this week.

On that question, the United Steelworkers urge all members of the House to support and pass H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leo W. Gerard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leo W. Gerard
International President