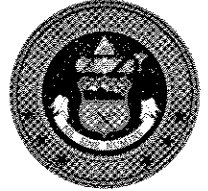


STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol Building
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(303) 866 - 2471
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Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

January 20, 2010

The Honorable Michael Bennet
702 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

I am writing to urge you to reject efforts, led by Senator Lisa Murkowski, to block enforcement of Clean Air Act requirements to reduce carbon dioxide and other global warming pollutants. The Clean Air Act is a proven law with a nearly 40-year track record of cost-effectively cutting pollution to protect our citizens and the environment and to drive technology innovation. Now is the time to put this law to work to fight global warming, cut America's dependence on oil and build a 21st century clean energy economy

The Clean Air Act has a long record of success in reducing pollution to protect human health and the environment. Accomplishments include reducing children's exposure to toxic lead by phasing lead out of gasoline, achieving substantial reductions in dangerous smog and soot pollution in many American cities, and preserving lakes, streams, forests, and ecosystems from damaging acid rain. Since President George Bush signed the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments into law with overwhelming bipartisan support, emissions of six common pollutants have declined by 41 percent, even as gross domestic product has grown by 64 percent.

In a 2007 landmark decision, the Supreme Court ruled that the Clean Air Act covers global warming pollutants. It is time to finally put this proven law to work as one essential tool in the fight against global warming.

New Clean Air Act standards will reduce global warming pollution from America's cars and light trucks, while at the same time decreasing the nation's oil dependency, creating jobs by making more efficient vehicles, and saving consumers money at the pump. The Clean Air Act also will ensure that coal-fired power plants and other big smokestack industries use modern technology to reduce their global warming pollution and move towards cleaner energy.

The state of Colorado and other pioneering states have worked hard over the last decade to fight global warming and to build a New Energy Economy, and our efforts are paying off. However, global warming is a challenge that requires leadership at every level of government, especially at the federal level. It is long past time for the United States to rise to this challenge and build a stronger, more prosperous and sustainable future. I continue to support strong national energy legislation to help us reach this future. And I urge you to oppose any attempt in the Senate to block the EPA's common sense efforts to enforce the Clean Air Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Ritter, Jr." in a cursive style.

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

cc: Senator Mark Udall