



January 29, 2010

The United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

I am writing to urge you to oppose Senator Murkowski's disapproval resolution aimed at delaying congressional action on climate legislation and compromising the ability of the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce harmful global warming pollution. Senator Murkowski's resolution would eliminate EPA's authority to regulate carbon dioxide under the Clean Air Act as directed by the Supreme Court in 2007. While the stated intention of the Senator's effort is to protect U.S. economic interests, the fact is, this resolution will stymie U.S. efforts to create jobs, new manufacturing opportunities and economic growth.

Over the past six years, the clean energy economy has increased six-fold to more than \$145 billion annually. Bloomberg New Energy Finance, which tracks clean energy data and trends, estimates that finance and investment in this sector will increase to \$200 billion in 2010. In the near future, experts estimate that clean energy could be a more than \$1 trillion annual marketplace. The United States has pioneered many of the clean energy technologies that are now being manufactured and deployed around the world – but we are falling behind in manufacturing and sales of these very technologies. Three years ago, for example, U.S. firms accounted for 43% of the solar photovoltaic market in the world – today our share has contracted to 16%. In our place, China has emerged as the world leader, increasing its share to 46% from 2% in 2006.

The countries that are succeeding in the worldwide clean energy marketplace – China, Germany, Spain, and Great Britain for example – have strong policy frameworks in place to encourage clean energy development. The European countries are moving ahead with carbon reduction targets and carbon markets. China has set ambitious national goals for energy efficiency and nationwide targets for wind and solar energy. In contrast, the United States has a loose patchwork of state and national laws, which explains our declining position in the growing competition for clean energy jobs, manufacturing and economic opportunity. National action to create carbon emission reduction goals and incentives necessary to create a strong, clean energy economy is essential to our ability to compete effectively in the current global environment.

President Obama has already taken historic steps to reposition the United States to compete and win in the clean energy economy. The Administration has initiated unprecedented investments in clean energy research and launched creative programs to save energy and incentivize private sector investment in renewable energy projects. Consistent with major legislative proposals, the Administration has proposed ambitious but achievable global warming pollution reduction goals.

Absent Congressional action, the Administration has moved forward pursuant to the Clean Air Act -- as directed by the U.S. Supreme Court -- to regulate global warming pollution that threatens the health and welfare of the American people.

In the interest of the U.S. economy, it's time for Congress to heed Thomas Paine's admonition to "lead, follow or get out of the way." Senator Murkowski's proposal undermines the integrity of the Clean Air Act, sends the wrong signal to investors about long-term U.S. policy on global warming pollution, sets back efficiency and other efforts to enhance our energy independence, and slows progress toward developing new, good-paying clean energy jobs. In short, the Murkowski disapproval resolution is contrary to our long-term economic, environmental and national security interests. It should be vigorously opposed and overwhelmingly rejected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phyllis Cuttino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Phyllis" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Cuttino".

Phyllis Cuttino
Director, U.S. Global Warming Campaign
Pew Environment Group