



CLIMATE EQUITY ALLIANCE

March 3, 2010

Dear Senator:

Organizations from the research, advocacy, faith-based, labor, and civil rights communities formed the Climate Equity Alliance in 2009 to help ensure that the strong policies needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are combined with measures that preserve the purchasing power of low-income households in the face of further increases in energy prices and expand economic opportunities for America's workers and communities.

One of the founding principles of the Climate Equity Alliance is that "policies designed to limit greenhouse gas emissions and advance climate solutions must be aggressive and timely enough to ensure that the worst environmental and economic consequences of global warming are averted." We therefore ask you to oppose Senator Lisa Murkowski's Resolution of Disapproval (S.J. Res. 26), which would stop the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from regulating greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. If approved, the resolution would delay a federal response to climate change by essentially prohibiting the EPA from moving forward with programs that would reduce carbon pollution, and protect public health and the environment.

Low-income and minority communities are already the most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, so protecting these communities from global warming pollution is critically important. For example, climate change is predicted to cause more frequent and intense heat waves and other extreme weather events that negatively impact public health. Vulnerable low-income and minority populations will face especially great risks. And as urban populations continue to grow in low-lying areas that are vulnerable to storm events, flooding, and sea-level rise, communities of color whose populations are concentrated in these areas will be disproportionately impacted.

Congress should not stand in the way of progress. Instead, it should move expeditiously to enact the comprehensive climate and energy legislation that the country needs to build a clean energy economy, create jobs, protect low-income households from added financial burdens, and protect the environment. Senator Murkowski's resolution is a distraction from this real and urgent task. We urge the Senate to support the Clean Air Act and reject S.J. Res. 26.

Respectfully,

Green For All

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Center for American Progress Action Fund

Service Employees International Union

The United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society

Union for Reform Judaism

Community Action Partnership

Washington Office of Public Policy, Women's Division, United Methodist Church

Coalition on Human Needs

National Low Income Housing Coalition

Friends Committee on National Legislation

National Council of Churches USA

Enterprise Community Partners

Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Franciscan Action Network

Green DMV

NETWORK Lobby

National Hispanic Environmental Council