

Alaska Wilderness League \* Alliance for Climate Protection \* American Agriculture Movement Inc.  
American Federation of Teachers \* American Rivers \* Blue Green Alliance \* Change To Win \* Clean  
Water Action \* COEJL \* Defenders of Wildlife \* Earthjustice \* Environment America \* Environmental  
Defense Fund \* International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers \* Interfaith Power  
and Light \* Iowa Interfaith Power & Light \* League of Conservation Voters \* League of Women Voters  
of the United States \* Michigan Interfaith Power & Light \* National Audubon Society \* National  
Wildlife Federation \* Natural Resources Defense Council \* Oxfam America \* Physicians for Social  
Responsibility \* Renewal: Students Caring for Creation \* Republicans for Environmental Protection  
Restoring Eden \* Service Employees International Union \* Sierra Club \* Union of Concerned Scientists  
United Steelworkers of America \* Utility Workers Union of America \* World Wildlife Fund

The Honorable Harry Reid  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

January 27, 2010

Dear Majority Leader Reid & Minority Leader McConnell,

As leaders from the labor, faith, scientific, rural, agriculture, public health, civic, development, youth, and environmental communities, we thank you for your leadership in promoting clean energy policies and write today to urge the Senate to enact meaningful, comprehensive climate and clean energy legislation that will reinvigorate our economy and create millions of new jobs while reducing global warming pollution.

America is enduring the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, and our continued reliance on foreign oil is not making this problem any less bleak. By addressing the challenges of climate change and energy independence through the creation of a comprehensive approach, we can foster the continued development of domestically produced renewable energy, create new manufacturing and technology jobs, create new economic opportunities in rural areas, create new high-quality construction jobs and rebuild our communities. **The path to achieve these goals is to enact comprehensive climate and energy legislation this year.**

Energy and climate legislation must be connected and comprehensive to create the opportunity to build a new clean energy economy that secures our energy supplies, fosters innovation, and creates the new jobs we so desperately need here in the U.S. The U.S. has repeatedly passed major energy-only bills – most recently in 2005 and 2007 – that have failed to achieve the kinds of results needed now.

Investments in clean energy solutions such as efficiency programs, grid enhancements, and a Renewable Energy Standard (RES) are important components in enhancing energy security and promoting growth of low-carbon energy sources, but they alone cannot reduce our fossil fuel dependency, provide the long-term investment in job creation, or reduce carbon emissions at the necessary scale. Only by combining such measures with an enforceable, economy-wide limit on carbon pollution will America unleash her entrepreneurial power and fully transition us to reliable, low-polluting energy sources, generated and installed by workers right here in the United States.

Passing an energy bill alone is just more-of-the-same at a time when our economy and our environment require a new direction. Failing to act now will cost us much more in the future, as other nations continue to surpass the U.S. in transitioning to the clean-energy economy we know awaits us. Our nation cannot afford to allow this opportunity to slip away.

We urge the Senate to pass comprehensive clean energy legislation this year that includes a carbon limit that will provide an incentive for investment in new technologies, innovation, and clean energy jobs throughout the nation.

We also urge the Senate not to forego serious action on climate change by acting on energy-only legislation such as the American Clean Energy Leadership Act (S. 1462). We would strongly oppose such an approach.

Sincerely,

Alaska Wilderness League  
Alliance for Climate Protection  
American Agriculture Movement Inc.  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Rivers  
Blue Green Alliance  
Change To Win  
Clean Water Action  
Coalition On the Environment and Jewish Life  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Earthjustice  
Environment America  
Environmental Defense Fund  
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers  
Interfaith Power and Light  
Iowa Interfaith Power & Light  
League of Conservation Voters  
League of Women Voters of the United States  
Michigan Interfaith Power & Light  
National Audubon Society  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Oxfam America  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Renewal: Students Caring for Creation  
Restoring Eden  
Republicans for Environmental Protection  
Service Employees International Union  
Sierra Club  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
United Steelworkers of America  
Utility Workers Union of America  
World Wildlife Fund

Cc: Members of the U.S. Senate