



February 03, 2010

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our more than 500,000 members and supporters, I strongly urge you to oppose Sen. Murkowski's Dirty Air Act (S.J. Res. 26). This attack on the Clean Air Act protects the biggest polluters while jeopardizing our public health, wildlands, national security, and economy.

The Clean Air Act has served for nearly 40 years in protecting public health, as well as spurring innovations that protect our economy and environment. In 2007, the Supreme Court ruled that global warming pollutants are covered by the Clean Air Act. With the support of auto companies, auto workers, states, and environmentalists the Obama Administration has already issued landmark clean vehicle standards that will save consumers money at the pump, cut heat-trapping pollution, reduce America's oil dependence, and create new jobs making more efficient and competitive vehicles.

The Clean Air Act will also ensure that modern technology is used by the largest power plants and factories to reduce their global warming pollution and use cleaner energy. It is irresponsible and economically short-sighted to make global warming worse by building new facilities with old technology. EPA has already proposed to tailor those rules to exempt small carbon emitters and apply them only to a relatively small number of the large polluters that have long been subject to similar standards for other pollutants.

Instead of protecting the public health and welfare, Sen. Murkowski's attack would strike at the heart of the Clean Air Act—blocking these actions and letting America's biggest polluters off the hook. These efforts are a danger to all and waste precious time while thousands of American businesses are waiting for Congress to set a clear energy and climate policy that will unlock billions of dollars in job-creating clean energy investments. These attacks would also kill new national clean vehicle standards—creating a patchwork of state-based regulations for auto companies to negotiate.

I urge you to oppose Sen. Murkowski's Dirty Air Act. It is an ill-considered, pro-polluter, anti-public health measure that puts our communities at risk, undermines the new clean energy economy, and inappropriately injects Congress into scientific decisions. Instead of protecting polluters and risking our health, Congress should move quickly to enact the energy and climate legislation the country needs to build a clean energy economy, and create jobs.

Sincerely,

William H. Meadows