

**Blue Green Alliance \* Clean Water Action \* Earthjustice \* Environment America  
Environmental Defense Fund \* League of Conservation Voters \* National Audubon Society  
National Wildlife Federation \* Natural Resources Defense Council \* Pew Environment Group  
Physicians for Social Responsibility \* Sierra Club \* Union of Concerned Scientists  
World Wildlife Fund**

February 25, 2010

Dear Senator,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we write to convey our strong support for enacting climate and energy legislation this year to create jobs, enhance America's security, and require reductions in carbon pollution. We also want to express our strong opposition to forgoing action on integrated legislation in favor of an energy bill such as the American Clean Energy Leadership Act of 2009 (ACELA).

The nation faces three fundamentally linked crises that must be addressed without delay: the environment, the economy, and national security. We cannot afford to neglect opportunities for creating American jobs, to leave our national security at risk, or to pump more dangerous pollution into the atmosphere. Our collective goal must be an integrated solution to these crucial issues. Success must be measured by bold steps forward on these inherently inseparable challenges.

Effective climate and energy legislation will create approximately 2 million jobs, cut America's dependence on foreign oil in half, and cut carbon pollution by 2 billion tons by 2020. While many policy tools are needed, the indispensable key to these critical results is to put a limit on carbon pollution. This limit, in combination with strong energy policies, is crucial for creating the powerful economic incentives required to unlock the investment and ingenuity that will drive large-scale job creation, ensure pollution reduction, and advance energy independence.

In comparison, even though it contains important energy efficiency programs, the overall impact of ACELA as it now stands would be to forgo over 1 million potential jobs, fail to reduce our oil dependency, pose serious risks to the environment, and potentially increase carbon pollution. As drafted, its renewable electricity standard would not deploy any more renewable energy than is already required under current state and federal policies. Its investments in energy technologies would divert scarce taxpayer dollars to mature industries and promote more dirty fossil fuels, rather than jump-starting the clean energy transition we need. In the absence of a carbon limit, its electricity transmission provisions could increase emissions by facilitating greater reliance on dirty power sources. ACELA could also expand oil and gas development into protected areas, increasing carbon emissions while degrading our oceans and other natural resources.

The challenges facing the nation today are far too serious and too urgent for half-measures or steps backward. Now is the time to meet these challenges with a climate and energy bill that cuts the pollution causing global warming, sets America on a course to energy independence, and unleashes American entrepreneurial power to revitalize the economy.

We urge you to enact legislation that both contains a firm limit on global warming pollution and improves ACELA provisions to ensure a robust transition to a clean energy future. We stand ready to work with you to meet these challenges and urge you to pass effective bipartisan legislation this year.

Sincerely,

David Foster  
Executive Director  
Blue Green Alliance

John DeCock  
President  
Clean Water Action

Tripp Van Noppen  
President  
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Margie Alt  
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