



September 21, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As the nation's largest network focused on climate change, representing millions of supporters and allied organizations across the country, we call on you to swiftly issue meaningful standards to reduce greenhouse gases from power plants under the Clean Air Act. We are deeply concerned that the Environmental Protection Agency will not meet the September 30 deadline to issue standards that limit climate-changing pollution from new and existing power plants. Any significant delay in setting this standard is unacceptable.

Americans and the rest of the world are already suffering from the impacts of climate change. A shift towards more extreme weather including devastating drought in Texas and the Horn of Africa, and violent wildfires in Arizona and Russia is an expected consequence of a continually warming world. Further delay in reducing carbon pollution will greatly increase the risks of economic, public health, and environmental consequences due to a warming planet and increased extreme weather events.

Power plants are the largest industrial sources of the dangerous pollution that drives climate change accounting for more than 2.4 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year. The science continues to affirm it has never been more urgent to act boldly in the short timeframe needed to protect the public from the risks to health and welfare posed by climate change. Yet there are currently *no national limits* on the amount of carbon pollution being dumped into the air.

Strong action to reduce harmful emissions from power plants will improve the air quality and public health of local communities and move the U.S. one step closer to taking meaningful action to help reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. A national standard will be based on existing technology that is available, proven and affordable for power plants. Utilities and investors will benefit from the certainty provided by these standards so they can begin to make the necessary long-term investments to ensure an orderly transition to a cleaner, more efficient electricity system.

Clean Air Act standards for power plant greenhouse gas pollution are long overdue. The 2007 Supreme Court decision *Massachusetts vs. EPA* ruled that greenhouse gas pollution endangers

public health and welfare and again in June of this year the Court unanimously reaffirmed that it is the EPA's responsibility to protect Americans from climate-changing pollution. Yet the schedule for setting achievable limits has again been delayed.

The EPA must issue meaningful standards as swiftly as possible for new and existing power plants as the Clean Air Act requires addressing the harmful effects of climate change. USCAN is a network of 90 member organizations, working at the local, state, federal and international levels of the debate, to support the design and development of an effective, equitable, and sustainable strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We call on you to instruct the EPA to adhere to an aggressive schedule for proposing these standards without further delay and for completing them as soon as possible in 2012.

Sincerely,

350.org
ActionAid USA
Alliance for Affordable Energy
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Community, Democracy and Ecology (CCDE)
Center for Food Safety
Ceres
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)
Clean Air Task Force
Climate Protection Campaign
Climate Solutions
Conservation Law Foundation
Ecoequity
Energy Action Coalition
Environment Northeast (ENE)
Fresh Energy
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Global Exchange
Greenpeace USA
Health Care Without Harm
Interfaith Power and Light
International Center for Technology Assessment
International Forum on Globalization
International Rivers
Institute for Policy Studies
Kyoto USA
Natural Resources Defense Council
North Carolina Conservation Network

Rainforest Action Network
Sierra Club
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Sustainable Energy & Economy Network
The Center for the Celebration of Creation
The Wilderness Society
Union of Concerned Scientists
Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth
US Climate Action Network
Voces Verdes
Voices for Progress
Will Steger Foundation
World Wildlife Fund