

August 26, 2009

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairman, U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee  
Hart Building 112  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boxer,

Thank you for your continued leadership on the climate crisis. The environmental, economic, and public health threats of global warming – both in the United States and around the world – require a strong climate bill. We are profoundly concerned that as currently written, H.R. 2454 (American Clean Energy and Security Act or “ACES”) falls far short. We are writing on behalf of the millions of members our organizations represent to urge you to draft a companion bill that provides the transformational change and greenhouse emissions reductions required to avert catastrophic climate impacts.

**The Senate bill must set an economy wide cap on greenhouse emissions that is consistent with the best available science and that can be ratcheted down as necessary.** Findings from the U.S. Global Change Research Center, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and many other institutions and scientists indicate that the atmospheric greenhouse gas stabilization target of 450 parts per million CO<sub>2</sub>eq is far too high to avoid the risk of catastrophic climate change. Leading scientists currently warn that CO<sub>2</sub> must be reduced to no more than 350 parts per million. Yet the cap set by H.R. 2454 is insufficient even to achieve 450 parts per million CO<sub>2</sub>eq. The Senate bill must contain reduction targets consistent with the best available science, representing the U.S. fair global share of reductions within the world’s remaining carbon budget, and must include immediate action on short-lived global warming pollutants including black carbon and methane to slow warming in the near term.

**The Clean Air Act already provides many of the necessary tools to reduce greenhouse pollutants. Therefore, the Clean Air Act rollbacks in H.R. 2454, which would actually reduce existing pollution control requirements, facilitate the construction of additional coal fired power plants, and grandfather in unnecessary pollution from existing plants, must be removed.** The critical safety net of the Clean Air Act must be retained, not discarded in favor of a new, untested system, placing all of our eggs in one precarious basket. Existing Clean Air Act authority should be strengthened by adding deadlines for the oldest and dirtiest coal fired power plants to meet pollution reduction requirements or shut down.

**The Senate bill should eliminate the many loopholes in HR2454 and ensure the integrity of the pollution reduction system.** A top priority must be to eliminate or greatly limit and restrict offsets, which allow actual pollution from capped sources to increase, creating localized toxic hotspots in people of color and vulnerable communities, delay a shift to low carbon technologies in the United States, and increase the risks in carbon markets. In addition, the House provision prohibiting a full life-cycle analysis of bio-fuels must be reversed.

**The Senate bill should protect low- and middle- income families.** Regardless of the chosen mechanism, the setting of carbon prices must be transparent, stable, and predictable, while minimizing the ability of private entities to manipulate the carbon price. We do not believe the market mechanisms contained in the current cap and trade proposal achieve this. The Senate bill should ensure there are adequate protections from climate change for low-income families, vulnerable communities domestically and globally, Native American and Indigenous peoples including protections and dividends for low-income consumers and adequate international finance for adaptation.

**The Senate bill should provide for abundant clean energy.** The Senate bill should provide mandates and incentives for abundant clean energy sources such as low-impact solar, wind, and non-dam hydro, which do not add toxic burdens to communities and workers, and do not require incineration technologies.

**The Senate bill should eliminate polluter giveaways, including massive subsidies to coal and oil.** Scarce government funding should not go to dangerous fossil fuel or nuclear industries or allow damaging practices such as mountaintop removal mining. Instead, public money should go to investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy and the creation of green jobs.

**The Senate bill should live up to the United States' international obligations.** For a fair global deal with meaningful global emissions reductions, the United States must both deeply reduce emissions domestically and provide adequate international climate finance for clean technology, adaptation, and support a stop to deforestation. Fulfilling these commitments will be essential to securing an effective international agreement.

We recognize the massive political effort that is necessary to pass climate legislation, but a bill with inadequate targets, loophole-ridden mechanisms, rollbacks of our flagship environmental laws, and inadequate financing for developing countries to address climate change will move us in the wrong direction. We urge you to pass a strong climate bill consistent with the principles outlined above.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

350.org

Acterra

ActionAid USA

Alameda Creek Alliance

Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility

Amazon Watch

American Center for Life Cycle Assessment Institute for Environmental Research & Education

Animal Welfare Institute

Animas Valley Institute

Anza Water Conservation Association (AWCA)

Appalachian Voices

Arizona Wilderness Coalition

Association of Irrigated Residents (AIR)

Atlanta Mentorship Program for Sustainability

Audubon South Carolina

Battle Creek Alliance

Bedford Global Warming Coalition

Berkeley Partners for Parks

BioTour

Blanket the Globe

Borneo Project

California Coastkeeper Alliance

California Interfaith Power and Light

California Native Plant Society

California Student Sustainability Coalition (CSSC)

Californians for Western Wilderness

Calumet Project

Canary Coalition

Caney Fork Headwaters Association

Caribbean Conservation Corporation

Carolinas Clean Air Coalition

Cascadia Wildlands

Center for a Sustainable Coast  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Native Ecosystems  
Center of Concern  
Center on Race Poverty and the Environment  
Central California Environmental Justice Network  
Central New Mexico Audubon Society  
Chalice Farm and Sustainable Living Center  
Champaign County Audubon Society  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network  
Church World Service  
Citizen for Sanity.Com, Inc.  
Citizens Against Ruining the Environment  
Citizens Environmental Coalition  
Citizens for Quality Environment  
Citizens for Sludge-Free Land  
Citizens League for Environmental Action Now (CLEAN)  
Citizens United for Resources and Environment (CURE)  
Clarksville Warioto Chapter of Audubon  
Clean Air Watch  
Clean Coast  
Climate Law & Policy Project  
Coastside Habitat Coalition  
Coastwalk California  
Colorado Grizzly Project  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Committee for a Better Alpaugh  
Communities for a Better Environment  
Community Coalition for Environmental Justice of Seattle WA  
Community Conservation  
Community Environmental Council  
Community Water Center  
Concerned Arizona Science Educators  
Conservation Northwest  
Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL)  
CORALations  
Corporate Ethics International  
CREDO  
Cumberland Countians for Peace & Justice  
Deer Creek Valley Natural Resources Conservation Association  
Delaware Audubon Society  
Desert Fishes Council  
Dogwood Alliance  
Don't Waste Arizona, Inc.  
Earth Day Los Angeles  
Earth Island Institute  
EARTHWORKS  
Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch  
Eco-Eating  
EcoEquity  
Eco-Justice Collaborative  
EcoLaw Massachusetts

Education for Global Warming Solutions  
Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society  
Endangered Habitats League  
Endangered Small Animal Conservation Fund  
Energize America  
Energy Alliance of Puerto Rico  
Enviro Show, WXOJ  
Environmental Alliance of North Florida  
Environmental Defenders of McHenry County  
Environmental Defense Center  
Environmental Health Group  
Environmental Law Society, University of Michigan Law School  
Environmental Studies Program Prescott College  
EPIC - the Environmental Protection Information Center  
Fairmont, Minnesota Peace Group  
Faiths United for Sustainable Energy (FUSE)  
Florida League of Conservation Voters  
Floridians Against Incinerators In Disguise  
Focus the Nation  
Forest Foundation  
ForestEthics  
Franciscan Sisters of Mary  
Fresno Metro Ministry  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Friends of Merrymeeting Bay  
Friends of the Cloquet Valley State Forest  
Friends of the Earth  
Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley  
Friends of the Owls  
Friends of the River  
Friends of the Santa Clara River  
Friends of Whitehaven Park  
Fund for Wild Nature  
Gallaudet Swim Club  
Gila Conservation Coalition  
Gila Regional Information Project  
Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives  
Global Community Monitor  
Global Exchange  
Global Green USA  
Global Justice Ecology Project  
Global Warming Education Network  
Golden Gate Audubon  
Grand Canyon Trust  
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
Green Delaware  
Green Peace Corps  
Green Press Initiative  
Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice  
Greenpeace  
Greenwood Earth Alliance

Gulf Restoration Network  
Halifax River Audubon  
Haverhill Environmental League  
Heartwood  
High Road for Human Rights  
Hilltown Anti-Herbicide Coalition  
Honor the Earth  
HOPE (Help Our Polluted Environment) in Taylor County, FL  
HOPE TO ACTION: Women for a Greener Planet  
Huachuca Audubon Society  
Humboldt Baykeeper  
Independent Environmental Conservation & Activism Network  
Indigenous Environmental Network  
Interfaith Council for the Protection of Animals and Nature  
International Center for Technology Assessment  
International Forum on Globalization  
International Rivers  
International Society for the Preservation of the Tropical Rainforest  
International Tribal Association  
Jewish Vegetarians of North America  
KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance  
Kalmiopsis Audubon Society  
Kentucky Heartwood  
Kentucky Mountain Justice  
Kickapoo Peace Circle  
Kids vs Global Warming  
Klamath Forest Alliance  
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
Klickitat Valley Cyclists  
Kodiak Audubon  
KyotoUSA  
Lake Merritt Institute  
Leadership Team of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, MO  
Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition  
Life of the Land (Hawai'i)  
Local Clean Energy Alliance  
Lutheran Peace Group - Jemez Springs, NM  
Martha's Vineyard Peace Council  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Massachusetts Coalition for Healthy Communities  
Massachusetts Power Shift  
Medical Mission Sisters, Alliance for Justice  
Mennonite Central Committee Washington Office  
Mercury Free Wisconsin  
Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network  
Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance  
Montana Rivers  
Monteverde Conservation League US  
Morning Sun Foundation  
Mountain Meadows Conservancy  
Musicians United to Sustain the Environment  
National Catholic Rural Life Conference

National Center for Conservation Science and Policy  
National Gray Panthers  
Native Alerts  
Native American Women's Health Education Resource Center  
Nature in the City  
NC WARN: North Carolina Waste Awareness and Reduction Network  
Near West Citizens for Peace and Justice  
Nebraska Wildlife Rehab., Inc.  
Network Alliance of Congregations Caring for Earth (NACCE)  
Network for Environmental & Economic Responsibility United Church of Christ  
Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force  
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance  
New School Sustainability Project  
No Impact Project  
No New Nukes  
North Suburban Peace Initiative (NSPI)  
Northcoast Environmental Center (NEC)  
Northern Climate Change Network  
Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment  
Northwest Ecological Research Institute  
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, NY  
Nuclear Energy Information Service  
Nuclear Information and Resource Service  
Nuclear Watch South  
Occidental Arts and Ecology Center  
Office of Justice, Peace, & Integrity of Creation for the School Sisters of Notre Dame, St. Louis Province  
Oil Change International  
Oil Independent Berkeley  
Olympia Climate Action  
Orangetown Environmental Committee  
Oregon Environmental Council  
Oregon Natural Desert Association  
Oregon Wild  
Owe Aku (Bring Back the Way)  
Pacific Environment  
Pacifica Climate Committee  
Peaceful Uprising  
Portland Audubon  
Post Carbon Institute  
PRACT McLeod  
Project Coyote  
Public Citizen  
Puerto Rico Ornithological Society  
Rainforest Action Network  
Redwood Alliance Climate Action Project  
Renewable Energy Office for Cornwall  
Residents for a Livable Moreno Valley  
Resisting Environmental Destruction on Indigenous Lands (REDOIL)  
Resource Renewal Institute  
Restore Sharp Park  
Rising Tide North America  
Rivers Unlimited

Romm 'n' Legions  
Rural Coalition  
SafeEnergyAnalyst.org  
Salmon Protection and Watershed Network (SPAWN)  
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society  
San Francisco Baykeeper  
San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace  
Santa Fe Forest Watch  
Save Lake Superior Association  
Save Union County  
SaveNature.Org  
Sciencecorps  
Sea Turtle Restoration Project  
Sequoia Audubon Society  
Shalom Center  
Sirius Ecovillage Community and Sustainable Living Education Center  
Siskiyou Project  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Central Leadership  
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Associates  
Sky Island Alliance  
Slow Food USA  
Society of Ethical and Religious Vegetarians  
Sojourners  
Solar Cookers International  
Soroptimist International of Goldendale  
South Carolina Coastal Conservation League  
Southern Energy Network  
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance  
Southwest Workers Union  
Stand Up/Save Lives Campaign  
Stewards of the Earth  
Sunshine Environment Link  
Sustainable Arizona  
Sustainable Energy & Economy Network  
Sustainable Futures  
Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition of Greater Kansas City  
Tellus Institute  
Tennessee Interfaith Power & Light  
Texas Climate Emergency Campaign  
Tikkun-Network of Spiritual Progressives  
Tortoise Reserve  
TriCounty Watchdogs (TCW).  
Tri-Valley CAREs  
Tucson Audubon  
Tuolumne River Trust  
Turtle Island Restoration Network  
Union County Peace Council  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Florida  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry, CA

Unitarian Universalist Massachusetts Action Network  
Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)  
Unitarian Universalists of Goldendale  
Unitarian Universalists United Nations Office  
United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries  
University of Denver Environmental Law Clinic  
Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union, Central Province  
Ursulines of Tildonk for Justice and Peace  
Valley Watch  
Vast Horizons  
Veg Climate Alliance  
Via Media USA, an Episcopal Church organization  
Washington State Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice  
Waterkeeper Alliance  
Watershed Management Group  
WCL Program on International and Comparative Environmental Law  
West Coast Climate Equity  
Western Nebraska Resources Council  
Western North Carolina Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Western Wildlife Conservancy  
Wild Equity Institute  
WildEarth Guardians  
Wildlife Center of Virginia  
Williamsburg Climate Action Network  
Winnemem Wintu Tribe  
Women, Food and Agriculture Network  
Women's Voices for the Earth  
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

cc: Members of the Senate and President Barack Obama