

August 26, 2009

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

cc: Members of the Senate and President Barack Obama

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  
All-Creatures.org  
Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility  
Amazon Fund International  
Amazon Watch  
American Center for Life Cycle  
Assessment Institute for Environmental  
Research & Education  
American Massage Therapists Assn.,  
MN Chapter  
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  
Central Valley Safe Environment  
Network  
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 Committee to Complete the  
Refuge

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 Ground Zero  
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 Office for Resource  
Efficiency  
Community Water Center  
Concerned Arizona Science Educators  
Conservation Northwest  
Cool Planet  
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  
 Earth Tomorrow Club  
 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  
 Future in our Hands Collective  
 Gallaudet Swim Club  
 Gifford Pinchot Task Force  
 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 America  
 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  
 Heard Natural Science Museum  
 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 Fund for Animal Welfare  
 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  
 Midwest Climbing  
 Minnesota Rovers Outdoors Club  
 Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance  
 Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Justice Peace/Integrity of Creation Office  
 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  
 Pebblebrook High School National Honors Society  
 Pesticide Action Network  
 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 Joaquin Raptor Rescue Center  
 San Joaquin Valley Conservancy  
 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  
 SIREN- Southern Indiana Renewable Energy Network  
 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  
 The Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment  
 The Sterling Forest Partnership, Inc  
 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  
 Wasatch Clean Air Coalition  
 Washington State Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice  
 Waterkeeper Alliance  
 Watershed Management Group  
 WCL Program on International and Comparative Environmental Law  
 West Coast Climate Equity  
 West Metro Global Warming Action Group, Inc.  
 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  
 Windward Ahupua`a Alliance  
 Winnemem Wintu Tribe  
 Women, Food and Agriculture Network  
 Women's Voices for the Earth  
 Women's Environmental Institute  
 Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation