

June 19, 2009

Dear Member of Congress:

H.R. 2454 (The American Clean Energy and Security Act) represents the most important opportunity in generations to jumpstart our economy, create millions of new jobs, and set the stage for America to compete and win in a 21st century economy while reducing dangerous global warming pollution. But in order to usher in a new clean energy future, your help is needed to stand up to the special interests that are seeking to weaken the bill at every turn.

We are visiting you today in coordination with 1Sky (<http://www.1sky.org>), a national grassroots campaign working to pass strong climate and energy legislation. Since it was founded in the fall of 2007, 1Sky has united over 425 organizations from all sectors of society and hundreds of thousands of climate advocates in every congressional district behind a bold platform for change that will help Americans at all economic levels and address climate change.

Along with 1Sky and hundreds of other groups, we believe that H.R. 2454 must be significantly strengthened if we are to realize its full potential to provide millions of additional jobs and significantly reduce the air pollution that has been caused by fossil fuel industries for decades. We are calling on you to help strengthen HR 2454 in the following ways:

1: Ensure more clean energy for America: Strengthening the clean energy standards will create more than 100,000 new jobs in the wind industry alone.

2: Hold polluters accountable: Restore authority to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate carbon emissions from power plants under the Clean Air Act.

3: Reduce free allocations to polluters in order to create more clean energy jobs for America and build resiliency to climate change.

The enclosed package includes more detailed information on these amendments and how they will benefit our country, information on some of the organizations that are supporting our efforts, and the important newsflash that the Congressional Budget Office has predicted that Waxman-Markey will actually **shrink** the deficit if implemented.

As a member of Congress, you have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, unprecedented in history, to move America from climate disruption and economic collapse to environmental stability and a vibrant green economy. We urge you to seize this opportunity, heed the call of your constituents, and work to strengthen the American Clean Energy and Security Act.

Sincerely,

May 29, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi

Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madame Speaker,

The American Clean Energy and Security Act offers our country the most important opportunity in generations to jumpstart our economy, create millions of new, well-paying jobs and set the stage for America to compete and win in a 21st century economy while reducing global warming pollution. A commitment by our elected leaders to a strong clean energy jobs bill will benefit small businesses and set us on the pathway back to economic prosperity. But in order to reach the full potential of this opportunity, Congress will need to stand strong against the special interests that seek to weaken the bill at every turn.

The Bush Administration had a virtual open-door policy to Big Oil for the last eight years. Meanwhile, the powerful interests of oil and coal have had a stranglehold on our energy policy, keeping our country hooked on old, dirty and expensive energy sources. At the same time, China and India have invested massively in clean energy technology development, recognizing that global economic leadership in the future is dependent on investments in clean energy infrastructure and technology now.

America has a chance to lead in the global race if we pass a bill that truly levels the playing field for new energy industries and limits the entitlement to federal resources and the control of our energy economy of Big Oil and Coal.

Yet, long-established energy industries have received concessions during the House committee negotiation process that have weakened this bill's ability to deliver on the full promise of clean energy jobs, strong, inclusive and sustaining economy in the 21st century and reducing pollution. Many of the considerations granted the oil, coal, and electricity industries would preserve their market power and profits while transferring the cost of reducing pollution to the taxpayer. We believe that industries should pay to clean up their emissions, not demand loopholes, bailouts, and giveaways from the federal government.

The clean energy jobs bill will best serve America if we can strengthen its provisions to maximize job creation, invest in the skills of our workers and the long-term economic prosperity of our country, and significantly reduce the pollution that has been caused by fossil fuel industries for decades.

In order to achieve these goals by the time it passes the House, we call on the House of Representatives to further the work of the committees and pass the following amendments:

Amendment #1: Ensure more clean energy for America

Increase the Renewable Electricity Standard to 30 percent by 2020 combined renewable energy and energy efficiency to deliver more clean energy jobs to the U.S. economy more quickly. Utilities would have to achieve 17 percent mandatory renewables and 10 percent mandatory efficiency by 2020, while maintaining flexibility to do either with 3 percent.

Amendment #2: Hold Polluters accountable

Restore authority to the EPA to regulate carbon emissions from power plants under the Clean Air Act.

Amendment #3: Create more Clean Energy Jobs for America and Build Resiliency to Climate Change

Reduce allocations to polluting industries in order to supplement allowance accounts that would bolster green job development and protection of vulnerable communities that are impacted first and worst by climate change. Shave allocations from fossil fuel producers and redistribute to programs that deliver energy efficiency and renewable energy, create green jobs and train workers to fill them, and protect natural resources and vulnerable communities here and around the world.

We expect an effort on the House floor to roll back the already weakened target for reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 2020. Our groups will work to turn back this effort. Our organizations stand ready to work with Chairmen Waxman and Markey, the House leadership, and other Committees to strengthen and improve this bill to fulfill the promise of the historic opportunity before us. The U.S. can emerge from this process with legislation that effectively spurs clean economic development, powers our nation with efficient, renewable, home-grown energy sources, and establishes a carbon reduction plan that can give us the credibility to lead the international community to a global agreement. Given a chance, American innovation and ingenuity can lead us out of this crisis into long-term and broadly shared economic prosperity.

We will work tirelessly to accomplish that goal.

Sincerely,

1Sky

Acorn

Democracia Ahora

Environment America

Green for All

Health Care Without Harm

Oxfam

MoveOn

Rock the Vote

Sierra Club

US Action

CC The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
The Honorable Ed Markey

Congressional Budget Office Analysis of the House Clean Energy Legislation

New analysis of the Waxman-Markey American Clean Energy and Security Act by the highly respected Congressional Budget Office (CBO) shows:

- The Legislation is good for the planet and good for the pocketbook.
- The Clean Energy Act is fiscally responsible. It does not add to the deficit and, in fact, saves the federal government money.
- The CBO found that the legislation protects consumers from increases in their utilities bill - particularly low income consumers. Low-income families will receive hundreds of dollars a year to help pay higher energy bills if Congress enacts the first-ever limits on carbon pollution.
- CBO's analysis concludes that Waxman-Markey will raise \$846 billion over the next decade in revenues from the new carbon market established by the bill, which explains why it won't add to America's federal budget deficit.
- Waxman-Markey dedicates the revenues to assist consumers with the transition to a clean energy economy and for other public purposes, including energy efficiency and clean energy research and deployment.
- As the bill stands now at least 50 percent of the allowances will go back to consumers – with at least 35 percent going to local power distribution companies to protect against increases in electric, natural gas, home heating and propane bills; and another 15 percent going directly to assist low income consumers.
- The CBO estimates that low-income families could initially receive \$161-\$359 in credits or rebates, if the bill becomes law. That amount could rise to \$282-\$628 by 2019, depending on the family's size.
- The money would come from the government auctioning off pollution permits to companies that release climate-altering gases. The amount of permits that will be sold will increase over time and they will become more expensive, generating \$846 billion from 2010-2019, the analysis says.

Read the CBO report:

<http://www.cbo.gov/doc.cfm?index=10262>