SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NETWORK

8606 Greenwood Avenue, #2 Takoma Park, MD 20912 Sustainable-energy-network@hotmail.com

SUPPORT A CARBON CAP PLUS ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY BUT NOT NUCLEAR POWER AND FOSSIL FUELS IN CLIMATE LEGISLATION

March 16, 2010

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell U.S. Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Attn: Energy and Climate Staff

Dear Senator:

We, the 185 undersigned sustainable energy, environmental, business, and other organizations (and 77 individual advocates), are writing to urge that energy efficiency and renewable energy coupled with an aggressive cap on greenhouse gas emissions be made the cornerstones of any climate legislation approved by the U.S. Senate. Likewise, climate legislation should not become a vehicle for supporting or expanding the use of nuclear power and fossil fuels nor should it be used as an opportunity for rolling-back existing environmental protections.

We believe the three primary components of any climate bill should be the following:

<u>CAP ON EMISSIONS</u>: The United States should establish a mandatory cap on allowable greenhouse gas emissions as well as both a near-term and a longer-term schedule for reducing overall emissions to levels consistent with the best science now available (e.g., 30% or more by 2020 and 50% or more by 2030). The target of a 17% reduction from 2005 levels by 2020 included in the recently-passed House bill is almost certainly inadequate and needs to be strengthened significantly in Senate legislation if the worst consequences of climate change are to be avoided.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY: The cornerstone of near-term U.S. climate policy should be quickly reducing energy waste and fossil fuel consumption. The experience of other industrialized nations coupled with dozens of governmental, business, academic, and

private analyses over the past three decades consistently document that the potential exists for sharply reducing U.S. energy use while simultaneously creating jobs, protecting the environment and low-income consumers, and sustaining a good quality of life. Rapidly curbing energy consumption by 30% or more is well within reach. Consequently, a Senate climate bill should greatly strengthen energy efficiency goals including the creation of mandatory national standards for residential and commercial buildings, greatly-expanded use of co-generation and combined heat & power in the utility sector, and much more aggressive efficiency standards for lighting, appliances, industrial equipment, and motor vehicles.

RENEWABLE ENERGY: While both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have informally embraced the goal of 25% renewable energy by 2025, this target – or an even stronger one – should be formally incorporated in Senate climate or energy legislation. However, the measure's current renewable energy provisions are far too weak. For example, in the electricity sector, the Senate bill only envisions a Renewable Electricity Standard of 3% by 2013 – even though non-hydro renewables are already producing almost 4% of the nation's electricity and will likely reach 6% (or more) by 2013 under a business-as-usual scenario. The Senate's RES target for the near-term should be at least doubled if not tripled or quadrupled and made significantly more aggressive for the longer-term as well as coupled with other measures to drive renewable energy development.

By focusing on this three-pronged strategy (i.e., carbon cap + efficiency + renewables), it may prove unnecessary - for the moment at least - to tackle either of the two most controversial options for addressing climate change: creating a "trading system" for emissions credits or imposing carbon taxes.

On the other hand, climate legislation should not support any of the following:

<u>FOSSIL FUELS</u>: There should not be an expansion of federal support for fossil fuels. Rather, U.S. climate policy should include the aggressive phase-out of coal-fired plants (beginning with the dirtiest) and oil use in the transportation sector. Likewise, federal subsidies for the fossil fuel industries should be ramped down considerably, if not completely eliminated. If there appear to be promising and near-term technologies that can burn coal with vastly-reduced CO2 and other emissions as well as minimal environmental impacts, the investment burden should be borne primarily by the coal and utility industries, not the American taxpayer.

NUCLEAR POWER: There should be no financial or regulatory incentives for new nuclear construction or relicensing of existing plants. Fifty years of experience coupled with ever-escalating price estimates for a new generation of reactors should provide sufficient evidence that nuclear power cannot be seen as a cost-effective alternative to fossil fuels or solution to climate change. Additional nuclear reactors would pose safety, proliferation, and terrorist threats as well as generate highly-radioactive waste. Furthermore, while investments in the nuclear sector could not bring new reactors on-line within the timeframe and on a scale needed to address global warming, they would drain

financial resources from far more-promising efficiency and renewable energy alternatives.

ENVIRONMENTAL ROLL-BACKS: Climate legislation should not be employed as a vehicle for rolling back existing environmental or human-health safeguards. In particular, the Senate climate bill should leave intact the authority of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to regulate CO2 emissions if legislation approved by the Congress or other regulations issued by the Administration prove to be insufficient. Similarly, current provisions of the Clean Air Act requiring upgrades of coal-burning electricity plants should also be left intact – if not strengthened.

In conclusion, we believe it is imperative that Congress act now and act aggressively to address the threats posed by climate change. In addition, we believe that greenhouse gas emissions can be cut swiftly and in an economically and environmentally sound way by means of a national emissions cap that is realized through a combination of aggressive energy efficiency and renewable energy standards. However, we also believe that climate legislation that promotes continued or expanded use of fossil fuels and/or nuclear power, or which rolls back existing environmental safeguards, could result in a bill that might actually be worse than no bill at all.

We appreciate your consideration of these views.

cc. Members, U.S. Senate

Senate Committees on Environment & Public Works, Energy & Natural Resources, Finance

Sincerely,

ORGANIZATIONAL SIGNERS

Rob Ashmore Aeonsolar Jersey City, NJ

David Swanson After Downing Street Charlottesville, VA

Lesley Weinstock Agua es Vida Action Team (AVAT) Albuquerque, NM

John Atkeison, Director - Climate & Clean Energy Programs Alliance for Affordable Energy New Orleans, LA

Dr. Lewis Cuthbert Alliance for a Clean Environment Pottstown, PA

Rochelle Becker, Executive Director Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility San Luis Obispo, CA

Anne Pearson, Director Alliance for Sustainable Communities Edgewater, MD

Martin Boksenbaum Alliance for Sustainable Communities-Lehigh Valley Bethlehem, PA

Joyce Martin, JD; Director - Environmental Health Policy American Association on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Washington, DC

Rita Schenck American Center for Life Cycle Assessment Institute for Environmental Research & Education Vashon, WA

Casey Sterr, Executive Director Appalachia - Science in the Public Interest Mt. Vernon, KY

Greg Hanson Aqua Sun International Minden, NV

Chamomile Nusz, Program & Marketing Director Artha Sustainable Living Center LLC Amherst, WI

Dr. Robert A. Bardwell Bardwell Consulting Ltd Denver, CO Dave Room Bay Localize Oakland, CA

Kevin Kamps Beyond Nuclear Takoma Park, MD

Fernando Ausin BioTU San Francisco, CA

Louis Zeller, Science Director Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League Glendale Springs, NC

Paul Cameron Brattleboro Climate Protection Brattleboro, VT

Jeff Perlman Bright Power New York, NY

Bart Sheldrake & Whitney Painter Buglet Solar Electric Installation Golden, CO

Sandra Gavutis, Executive Director C-10 Foundation Newburyport, MA

James P. Sweeney, President CCI Energy, LLC & Sustainable New Energy Plymouth, MA

William Snape Center for Biological Diversity Washington, DC and Tucson, AZ

W. Donald Hudson, Jr.; President Chewonki Foundation Wiscasset, ME

Chris Fried Chris Fried Solar (and) Martha's Vineyard Peace Council Tisbury, MA

David Hughes, Executive Director Citizen Power Pittsburgh, PA

Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director Citizens Campaign for the Environment Farmingdale, NY

Charlie Higley

Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin Madison, WI

Carol Stark, Director Citizens Against Ruining the Environment-C.A.R.E. Lockport, IL

Janet Greenwald Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping Albuquerque, NM

Jan Jarrett Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future Harrisburg, PA

Keith Gunter Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two Monroe, MI

James J. Provenzano Clean Air Now Los Angeles, CA

Lynn Thorp Clean Water Action Washington, DC

Michael J. Keegan Coalition for a Nuclear Free Great Lakes Monroe, MI

Lyn Harris Hicks, Advocate Coalition for Responsible & Ethical Environmental Decisions San Clemente, CA

Joseph Lancaster Cogenic, LLC Rochester, NY

George Burmeister Colorado Energy Group, Inc. Boulder, CO

Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kiener, Director Interreligious Eco-Justice Network Connecticut's Interfaith Power & Light West Hartford, CT

Patrick J. Griebel Consolidated Solar Technologies Albuquerque, NM

Kimchi Rylander, Outreach Coordinator Culture's Edge dba Earthaven Ecovillage Black Mountain, NC

Mark Trechock, Staff Director Dakota Resource Council Dickinson, ND

Charmaine White Face, Coordinator Defenders of the Black Hills Rapid City, SD

Stephen M. Brittle Don't Waste Arizona Phoenix, AZ

Alice Hirt Don't Waste Michigan Holland, MI

Jerry Viste, E.D. Door County Environmental Council, Inc Fish Creek, WI

Lois Barber EarthAction Amherst, MA

Al Fritsch Earth Healing, Inc. Ravenna, KY

Dan Brook Eco-Eating San Jose, CA

Kathy Tibbits, Volunteer Staff Attorney ecoLaw Institute, Inc. Stillwell, OK

Cara L. Campbell, Chair Ecology Party of Florida Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Mary Davis, Director EcoPerspectives (a project of Earth Island Institute) Lexington, KY

Gwen Farry, BVM Eighth Day Center for Justice Chicago, IL

Judy Braiman, President Empire State Consumer Project Rochester, NY

Kat A. Donnelly, President (PhD Student, Massachusetts Institute of Technology) EMpower Devices Cambridge, MA

Stephen Guesman Energize Alabama Birmingham, AL Dave Room Energy Preparedness Oakland, CA

Bret Fanshaw, Environmental Associate Environment Arizona Phoenix, AZ

Judith Johnsrud Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power State College, PA

Bonnie A. New, MD MPH Environmental & Occupational Health Consulting Houston, TX

Lillian Light, President Environmental Priorities Network Manhattan Beach, CA

Linda Ochs, Director Finger Lakes Citizens for the Environment Waterloo, NY

Bob Darby Food Not Bombs Atlanta, GA

Tom Ferguson Foundation for Global Community Atlanta, GA

Connie Lemley, Organizer Frankfort Climate Action Network Frankfort, KY

John Martin, CEO fuel4ward Santa Barbara, CA

Patrick O'Leary Futura Solar, LLC Jacksonville, FL

Peter Meisen Global Energy Network Institute San Diego, CA

Molly Johnson, Area Coordinator Grandmothers for Peace/San Luis Obispo County Chapter San Miguel, CA

Christopher LaForge Great Northern Solar Port Wing, WI Joelle Novey, Director Greater Washington Interfaith Power & Light Washington, DC

Alisa Gravitz, Executive Director Green America Washington, DC

Keren Schlomy, President Green Decade/Cambridge Cambridge, MA

Terri Cooper Green for Life Assoc. Santa Barbara, CA

Rob Hannah, Chairman/CEO Green Realty Trust, Inc. Chicago, IL

Chris Menges, Climate & Clean Energy Coordinator High Country Citizens' Alliance Crested Butte, CO

Jennifer Olaranna Viereck, Executive Director HOME: Healing Ourselves & Mother Earth Tecopa, CA

Suzanne Hunt, President Hunt Green LLC Washington, DC

Nancy Sylvester, Chair IHM Responsible Investment Committee The IHM Sisters of Monroe, Michigan Monroe, MI

Leslie Perrigo Independent Environmental Conservation & Activism Network Muncie, IN

Miriam Pemberton Institute for Policy Studies Washington, DC

Alan Ewell Integrated Architecture Honolulu, HI

Andy McDonald Kentucky Solar Energy Society Kentucky Solar Partnership Frankfort, KY

Tom Kelly, Director KyotoUSA Berkeley, CA

Nancy Nolan, for the

Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition Lexington, MA

Paul Fenn, President Local Power Inc. San Francisco, CA

Tara DePorte Lower East Side Ecology Center New York, NY

Richard Komp, Director Maine Solar Energy Assoication Lubec, ME

Peter Lowenthal MD-DC-VA Solar Energy Industries Association Maryland, DC, Virginia

Chris Kolb Michigan Environmental Council Lansing, MI

Barbara Jennings, CSJ; Coordinator Midwest Coalition for Responsible Investment St. Louis, MO

Tehri Parker, Ph.D.; Executive Director Midwest Renewable Energy Association Custer, WI

Aim Me Smiley Mighty Kindness Louisville, KY

David Boyce, Board Chair Minnesota Renewable Energy Society Minneapolis, MN

Rev. Séamus P. Finn, OMI; Director Christina Cobourn Herman Justice Peace/Integrity of Creation Office Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Washington, DC

Gary Birke Motorworks Clean Vehicles, Inc. Amityville, NY

Jeffrey J. Burke, Executive Director National Pollution Prevention Roundtable Washington, DC

Dave Ewoldt Natural Systems Solutions Tucson, AZ

Judy Treichel, Executive Director Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force Las Vegas, NV

David Radcliff

New Community Project

Elgin, IL

John Cerveny

New Energy Resources

Schenectady, NY

Carolyn Treadway

No New Nukes

Normal, IL

George Crocker, Executive Director

North American Water Office

Lake Elmo, MN

Larry Bell

North East Arizona Energy Services Company

Concho, AZ

Wells Eddleman, Staff Scientist

North Carolina Citizens Research Group

Durham, NC

Northern Futures Foundation

Port Wing, WI

Greg Reisig, Chairman

Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council

Traverse City, MI

Norman T. Baker, PhD

Northstar Nurseries, Inc.

Sequim, WA

Alice Slater

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, NY

New York, NY

David A. Kraft, Director

Nuclear Energy Information Service

Chicago, IL

Michael Mariotte, Executive Director

Nuclear Information & Resource Service

Takoma Park, MD

Mary Olson

Nuclear Information & Resource Service, Southeast

Asheville, NC

Glenn Carroll, Coordinator

Nuclear Watch South

Atlanta, GA

Chris Daum

Oasis Montana Inc.

(Renewable Energy Supply & Design) Stevensville, MT

Phil Tymon, Administrative Director Occidental Arts & Ecology Center Occidental, CA

Chuck Nelson Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition Glen Daniel, WV

Judi Friedman, Chair People's Action for Clean Energy, Inc. Canton, CT

Conrad Miller M.D.; Founder Physicians for Life Watermill, NY

Harry Wang, MD; President Physicians for Social Responsibility/Sacramento Sacramento, CA

Robert M. Gould, MD; President Physicians for Social Responsibility, SF-Bay Area Chapter Berkeley, CA

Robert Schultz, WA State Leader Pickens Plan Spokane, WA

Mary Lampert, Director Pilgrim Watch Duxbury, MA

Jane Hager Potomac Region Solar Energy Association Pasadena, MD

Bruce A. Drew, Steering Committee Prairie Island Coalition Minneapolis, MN

Jessica Barry Prism Solar Technologies, Inc. Highland, NY

David Zupan, Director Progressive Voices Eugene, OR

Alexander P. Lee, Executive Director Project Laundry List Concord, NH

Kevin Zeese, Executive Director ProsperityAgenda.US Baltimore, MD Tyson Slocum, Director Public Citizen's Energy Program Washington, DC

Katherine West Rainbow Green Services Jackson, MS

Luke Lundemo, CEO Rainbow Natural Grocery Jackson, MS

Michael Welch Redwood Alliance Arcata, CA

Bill Holmberg Renew the Earth Vienna, VA

Ron Leonard RenewableEnergyCoalition.com Woodstock, NY

Brian Cassutt Renewable Energy Industry Association NM Albuquerque, NM

Gordian Raacke, Executive Director Renewable Energy Long Island East Hampton, NY

Margaret Weber Rosedale Recycles Detroit, MI

Jane Swanson, spokesperson San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace San Luis Obispo, CA

Kathleen Burns, Ph.D. Sciencecorps Lexington, MA

Paul Notari SciTech Communications, Inc. Denver, CO

Doug Bogen, Executive Director Seacoast Anti-Pollution League Exeter, NH

James Kennon, President Sevier Citizens for Clean Air & Water, Inc. Richfield, UT

Steven Keyser SnowberryRidge, Zero Emission Development Salt Lake City, UT

Jody Solell Solar Electrics Fairfax, VA

SolaRichard Thompson Solar Guru Tacoma, WA

Chris Stimpson, Executive Campaigner Solar Nation Washington, DC

Louise Gorenflo Solar Valley Coalition Crossville, TN

Dr. Robert T. Do Dennis F. Miller, Vice President & Science Advisor Solena Group, Inc. Washington, DC

Orlo Stitt, President Stitt Energy Systems, Inc. Rogers, AR

Heidi Speight Strategic Sustainability Associates Madison, WI

Ken Bossong, Executive Director SUN DAY Campaign Takoma Park, MD

Michael S. Almon, Secretary Sustainability Action Network Lawrence, KS

John F Neville, President Sustainable Arizona Sedona, AZ

Andrea Faste Sustainable Ballard Seattle, WA

Rona Fried, Ph.D.; President SustainableBusiness.com Huntington, NY

Bob Walker Sustainable Energy Resource Group Thetford Center, VT

Bernhard O. Voelkelt Sustainable Energy Solutions Lake Arrowhead, CA Carolyn Starrett Sustainable Winchester Winchester, MA

Scott Sklar, President The Stella Group, Ltd. Arlington, VA

Angela Taylor, President Taylor Interactive, Inc. Baltimore, MD

Linda Seeley, President Terra Foundation San Luis Obispo, CA

Mark W. Toney, PhD; Executive Director TURN - The Utility Reform Network San Francisco, CA

Marylia Kelley, Executive Director Tri-Valley CAREs (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment) Livermore, CA

Diane C. Beeny Union County (NJ) Peace Council Westfield, NJ

Brian Moench, MD; President Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment Salt Lake City, UT

John Blair, President Valley Watch, Inc. Evansville, IN

Blair Hamilton Vermont Energy Investment Corporation Burlington, VT

Brett KenCairn, CEO Veterans Green Jobs Denver, CO

Al Sobel, President Virginia Solar Council Alexandria, VA

Eric Alexander Vision Long Island Northport, NY

David Butler Voltaic Solar LLC Lexington, KY

Annie Carmichael, Federal Policy Director Vote Solar San Francisco, CA Blair Anundson, Consumer & Democracy Advocate Washington Public Interest Research Group Seattle, WA

Michael J. Dietrick MD Waterplanet Alliance Mill Valley, CA

Santana Tamarak Western Nebraska Recourses Council Scottsbluff, NE

Lewis E. Patrie, MD; Chair Western N.C. Physicians for Social Responsibility Asheville, NC

Buffalo Bruce Western Nebraska Resources Council Chadron, NE

Steve Gunn, owner Windbreak Construction Ellensburg, WA

John Horning, Executive Director WildEarth Guardians Santa Fe, NM

Chris Herman, Owner Winter Sun Design Edmonds, WA

Diane Farsetta

Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice's environmental working group Madison, WI

Deborah Reilly WISEnergy Vashon Vashon, WA

Ellen M. Garduno, President World Good Products Edmonds, WA

Paul Connett, PhD; Executive Director www.AmericanHealthStudies.org Canton, NY

INDIVIDUAL SIGNERS

Arnie Alpert, New Hampshire Program Coordinator American Friends Service Committee * Concord, NH

Wanda S. Ballentine Eagan, MN

Anne G. Berggren

Ann Arbor, MI

Nancy Bernstein Vermontville, NY

Frieda Berryhill Wilmington, DE

Joy Blackwood Landover, MD

Eric Bourgeois, Ph.D. Cambridge, MA

John D. Calandrelli Enfield, CT

Geraldine Carter Climate Ride * Missoula, MT

Marcella Chiarello Shelburne, VT

Mary C. Coelho Cambridge, MA

Marty Dickinson Washington, DC

Marianne DiMascio Hanson, MA

John D. Donnell St. George, UT

Michel Dyer Wendell, NC

Thomas Gaffney Sustainable Weymouth * South Weymouth, MA

Sabodh K. Garg, Ph.D. Del Mar, CA

Sister Mary Frances Gebhard St. Bede Monastery * Eau Claire, WI

Richard Giordano Boston, MA

Hans Grellmann Palos Verdes Estates, CA

Marcia Geyer Sustainable South Shore * Weymouth, MA Nancy Givens, Chairperson BGGreen Partnership for a Sustainable Community * Bowling Green, KY

Sister Paula Gonzalez, PHD Cincinnati, OH

Art & Natalie Hanson Lansing, MI

Gina B. Hardin Denver, CO

Harry Hochheiser Baltimore, MD

Marie D. Hoff, PhD Bismarck, ND

Cynthia E. Hoisington Barrington, NH

Robert R. Holt, PhD; Vice Chair Truro Energy Committee * Truro, MA

Paul Huddy Solar Institute * Tucson, AZ

Joanne M. Ivancic, Executive Director Advanced Biofuels USA * Frederick, MD

Thayer Jordan Chapel Hill, NC

Mrs. Leah R. Karpen, Member Physicians for Social Responsibility * League of Women Voters * Asheville, NC

Malcolm M. Kenton Greensboro, NC

Kyle Kiser Lexington, KY

Fan Lin Columbus, OH

Leslie H. Lowe, Energy & Environment Program Director Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility * New York, NY

Philip D. Lusk Port Angeles, WA

Patricia A. Marida, Chair

Ohio Sierra Club Nuclear Committee * Columbus, OH

Rory McIlmoil Morgantown, WV

Nancy Miller Green Technology * Pasadena, CA

Elizabeth C. Moore Lakewood, CO

Kathleen Morris RN Columbus, OH

Albert Nunez, CEM Takoma Park, MD

David O'Leary Takoma Park, MD

Denis Oudard, President Bay Pointe Solar * Louisville, KY

Micah Parkin Boulder, CO

Dennis Paull, Renewable Energy Advocate Half Moon Bay, CA

Upgeya Pew Costa Mesa, CA

Judi Poulson Fairmont, MN

Richa Grand Rapids, MI

Mario G. Rivera Winter Haven, FL

Ellen Rubinstein The Cadmus Group * Portland, OR

Barbara Scott San Luis Obispo, CA

Alice Geary Sgroi St. Louis, MO

Janette D. Sherman, M. D. Alexandria, VA

Lenny Siegel, Executive Director Center for Public Environmental Oversight * Mountain View, CA

Peter Slavin Oakton, VA

Beverly Smith Sierra Club * Cottonwood, AZ

Lewis L. Smith Carolina, PR

Rebecca Sobel Santa Fe, NM

Benjamin K. Sovacool, PhD Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University * Blacksburg, VA

Darla Reynolds Sparks Yukon, OK

Diane Stanton Lake Junaluska, NC

Stephen Steinhoff Madison, WI

Dot Sulock University of North Carolina at Asheville * Asheville, NC

Lorry Swain Southern Ohio Neighbors Group * South Shore, KY

Jay Sweeney Green Party of Pennsylvania * Falls, PA

Ruah Swennerfelt Quaker Earthcare Witness * Burlington, VT

Stan Swiercz Pelham, MA

Dr. Stephen J. Thompson Washington, DC

Robert P. Thornton Hopkinton, MA

Burt Tribble EnRRG, LLC * Nortonville, KS

Roy C. Treadway, Member Quaker Earthcare Witness *

Normal, IL

Ellen Vaughan Renewable Natural Resources Foundation * Bethesda, MD

Tad Veltrop Oakland, CA

Guy M. Zaczek Niagara County Community College * Lockport, NY

*Affiliation listed for identification purposes only