

**American Rivers * Clean Water Action * Climate Solutions * Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice * Environment America * International Forum on Globalization
League of Conservation Voters * League of Women Voters * National Audubon Society
National Parks Conservation Association * National Resource Defense Council
National Wildlife Federation * Oxfam Oceana * Physicians for Social Responsibility
Sierra Club * Union of Concerned Scientists * Wilderness Society * World Wildlife Fund**

June 8, 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. We are eager to work with you to deliver on the promise of a clean energy economy by improving and passing the American Clean Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454), while rejecting any weakening of the bill.

The American Clean Energy and Security Act sets up a framework for transitioning to clean energy and curbing global warming. It sets a first-ever limit on pollution that causes global warming and contains important and effective standards to increase energy efficiency.

The bill aims to reduce U.S. global warming emissions from capped sources by 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and by 83 percent by 2050. In addition, the bill commits the United States to achieving additional emission reductions through agreements to prevent deforestation. The bill will establish strong minimum targets for commercial and residential building codes, which will save consumers \$25 billion a year by 2030. And the bill will provide money to state and local governments to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Our organizations stand ready to work with you and Chairmen Waxman and Markey to strengthen and pass this bill to fulfill the promise of this historic opportunity. But in order to realize this opportunity, Congress will need to stand strong against the special interests that seek to weaken the bill at every turn.

In order to maximize job creation, invest in the skills of our workers, promote long-term economic prosperity, and ensure definite reductions in global warming pollution, we will work to strengthen the bill to:

Ensure More Clean Energy for America

Strengthen renewable electricity provisions to achieve 20 percent of sales generated from clean renewable energy by 2020, including the flexibility to achieve another 3 percent that could come from either efficiency or renewables by 2020. Increase the energy efficiency requirement so that utilities achieve 10% energy efficiency by 2020. Strengthening these standards will generate hundreds of thousands of new clean energy jobs.

Clean Up the Most Polluting Sources

Preserve EPA's ability under the Clean Air Act to require existing power plants, refineries and other sources to meet up-to-date carbon pollution standards.

Create more Clean Energy Jobs for America and Build Resiliency to Climate Change

Increase the portion of pollution allowance value dedicated to delivering energy efficiency and renewable energy, creating green jobs and training workers to fill them, and protecting natural resources, public health and vulnerable communities here and around the world.

Unfortunately, some members of Congress and special interests have said they would like to roll back the already weakened target for reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 2020. We urge you to reject any effort to weaken these targets. We also urge you to preserve the provision ensuring that the latest science informs the policy and strengthen the policy response to that science.

Our top priority is to enact legislation that jump-starts a clean energy economy, creates millions of clean energy jobs and reduces global warming pollution while giving the U.S. credibility to lead international negotiations on climate change. By strengthening and passing the American Clean Energy and Security Act, the House of Representatives can take a critical step towards accomplishing that goal. Our members, partners and allies are mobilizing as never before to capture this historic opportunity.

Sincerely,

American Rivers
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