



August 31, 2009

Dear Senator:

Earlier this summer, the House of Representatives took the first step toward addressing the climate and energy challenges of our time by passing the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES). As you return to Washington, D.C. to take up these issues in the Senate, you have one of the most important opportunities of your lifetime 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 which threatens all life on earth.

We are presenting you with the enclosed train ticket to D.C. aboard the “Clean Energy Express” to remind you that you have the power and the responsibility to lead our country in a powerful new direction by addressing these critical issues.

We are visiting you today in coordination with 1Sky (<http://www.1sky.org>), a national grassroots campaign that has united hundreds of thousands climate advocates in every congressional district nationwide, and over 425 organizations from all sectors of society in support of strong climate and energy legislation. Health groups concerned that climate change will harm vulnerable communities and stress our health care system, faith leaders who see stewardship as our moral imperative, and labor officials and business representatives who see the economic opportunities in creating millions of clean energy jobs, have all joined 1Sky’s efforts. At this defining moment in our economic and energy crisis, we know that inaction is not an option – we must act, and we must act now.

The world is looking to the U.S. for leadership in advance of the impending international climate talks in Copenhagen in December, and we can lead the way to a clean energy future – but only if we move beyond politics as usual. The forces of the failed status quo are hard at work to prevent a clean energy jobs bill from passing. We say “yes” to a new direction for our country, and we urge you to support legislation that:

- **Avoids giveaways to polluters and invests in millions of clean energy jobs for America:** reduce allowances to polluting industries and maximize allowances used to create clean energy jobs and train workers to fill them, as well as to ensure adequate investments in clean technology, avoided deforestation, and international adaptation.

- **Takes serious steps towards cutting global warming air pollution as soon as possible:** cut carbon emissions at least 20 percent by 2020. A slow start over the next decade will mean playing catch-up later, not to mention less chance of a binding global treaty and more severe climate impacts.
- **Transitions us away from coal and the dirty fuels of the past and towards the clean energy of the future:** ensure that we end the construction of new dirty coal plants and close the loopholes to ensure that the oldest, dirtiest coal plants must reduce their pollution. Establish effective renewable electricity and energy efficiency resource standards that allow us to pivot away from dirty fuels and add more clean energy jobs to the U.S. economy.

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 clean energy economy. Please stand with the significant majority of Americans and your constituents who know that the time for action is now, and support a bold, effective, and comprehensive clean energy jobs bill.

Your current constituents and future generations will thank you.

Sincerely,