

A Statement of Principles on Climate Change

We, the undersigned, acknowledge that climate change is causing some of the greatest challenges ever faced by humankind, which threaten our environment, our health, our economy and our security. Our addiction to fossil fuels has resulted in increasing levels global warming pollution for the planet, greater energy insecurity for our nation and higher energy costs for our citizens and energy consumers.

However, we believe the collective will and determination of citizens, businesses and nations enables us to meet this challenge and do not accept that the worst-case scenarios from climate change are inevitable. We cannot afford to risk the consequences of inaction. We have a responsibility to seek solutions that include firm limits on global warming pollution to ensure a hospitable world for our children, future generations, and ourselves.

Now that several states have taken decisive steps towards a clean energy future, it is time for Congress to craft national legislation that includes these three key principles:

- 1. Transition America to a clean energy future:** Using energy more efficiently is the cleanest, fastest and safest means of reducing air and climate pollution, and it saves consumers money, as well. Renewable energies like wind, solar and sustainably produced bio-energy will also reduce air and climate pollution while decreasing our reliance on foreign oil and creating green jobs and other economic opportunities for our region's farmers and small businesses owners;
- 2. Protect our economy with progressive energy policies:** Climate action is affordable, but cost of inaction would devastate our economy. Climate and energy policies must protect the consumers from higher energy costs by making the polluters pay for pollution credits through an auction-base distribution system; and
- 3. Set long-term reduction targets based on research, planning and science:** Scientists warn that we must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by a minimum of 25% below 1990 levels by 2020 (a goal based on what can be done with current technology) and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 (a goal that will require new policies and technologies) in order to avert the worst consequences of climate change.

For nearly two decades, there have been international agreements to reduce global warming pollution, but the United States still lacks a national policy to decrease our global warming pollution. **We cannot afford further delay.** Congress must lead with swift action to implement clean energy climate solutions in order to protect our environment, economy and future generations.

Endorsed by: _____ Date: _____
State: _____ Affiliation (if any): _____