

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

October 20, 2009

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

We are writing to express our support for urgent action to move America toward a clean energy economy, improve our national security, and lead the world in addressing climate change. As residents, business owners, scholars and advocates in the Southeast coastal region, we are particularly concerned about the coastal impacts resulting from changes in our climate.

Our country cannot overlook the economic imperative of addressing climate change. The Southeast coast, for example, is home to more than 16 million residents, and the property value along this shoreline alone total \$2.2 trillion. We rely on the more than 2,000 miles of coastline as an economic engine that attracts diverse visitors and outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy the region's coastal marshes, barrier islands and other unique natural and historic features. Coastal tourism activity creates thousands of jobs and generates billions of dollars in revenue across the region. However, most popular coastal tourism activities involve outdoor recreation and resources that are already threatened by climate change.

We have an important opportunity to address this challenge and protect southeast coastal communities. Reining in global warming pollution and harnessing energy efficiency and real renewable energy will help safeguard our natural heritage by unleashing a new era of clean technology. New high-quality jobs and consumer savings, such as those provided in the American Clean Energy and Security Act will support our nation's economic recovery and a diversified energy supply will improve national security.

As President Obama recently noted, "The nation that leads in the creation of a clean energy economy will be the nation that leads the 21st century global economy" (June 23, 2009). We are confident that the United States will be that nation, but this year we must pass comprehensive legislation that establishes a limit on global warming pollution, unplugging last century's energy policy and sparking a clean tech revolution.

From energy efficiency to renewable energy options like solar and offshore wind energy, the Southeast coastal region can be a valuable source of clean energy solutions. We urge you to work with your colleagues from this region to pass comprehensive energy legislation that includes a cap on global warming pollution with targets based on science, research and planning.

We commend the Senate for moving quickly to address this issue. We hope that this legislation remains a priority and that action undertaken builds on the American Clean Energy and Security Act to deliver clear consumer savings and stronger targets for reducing pollution and incentives for clean energy technologies.

Strong leadership and decisive action is needed to address one of our nation's greatest challenges. Failure to act now puts our treasured southeast coastal communities, businesses and way of life at risk. We look forward to working with you to develop and implement effective solutions to climate change that revitalize our economy and solidify America's position as a global leader.

cc: Senators Burr, Cardin, Chambliss, DeMint, Graham, Hagan, Isakson, Landrieu, LeMieux, Mikulski, Nelson and Vitter.

Sincerely,
Community leaders, businesspeople, organizations, and citizens who support strong climate and energy policy for the Southeast and the nation from:

Florida

Joseph Naroditsky and Jessie Glickstein, Faiths United for Sustainable Energy, Co-founders, Miami
Jody Smith Williams, Green Living & Energy Education (GLEE), Vice President, Key West
Deb and Arne Arnason, Alva
Advanced Green Technologies, Ft. Lauderdale
George Cavros, Broward County Climate Change Task Force, Hollywood
Barry N Heimlich, Fla. Atlantic University, Center for Urban and Env'tl. Solutions, Sr. Fellow, Hollywood
Doug Young, South Florida Audubon Society, President, Tamarac
Dennis & Robin McCowin, Seminole
John Wark, Florida Media Strategies, President, Sarasota
Florida Voices for Animals, Tampa
Andrea & Martyn Barlow, Seminole
Marilyn Weaver, Owner, Advanced Driving Skills Institute, Tarpon Springs
Jamie Trahan, Tampa
Rachel Walsh, FSU Environmental Service Program, Director, Tallahassee
John H. Parker, Fla. International Univ., Emeritus Prof. of Environmental Science and Chemistry, Miami
Kristen Watson, Sunovia Energy Technologies, Inc., Marketing and Public Relations Manager, Sarasota
Kimberly Gronemeyer, Tampa
Andres Mejides, Miami-Dade Coll., Org. Horticulture Instr., Elfin Acres Org. Farm Owner, Homestead
Dianne Rhodes, Naples Network for Climate Action, Co-coordinator, Naples
Karin Sanders, Fort Lauderdale
Susan Nilon, Sarasota
Rhonda Roff, Save It Now, Glades!, President, Clewiston
Jennifer Preston, FSU Environmental Service Program, Delray Beach
Jane Gilbert, High Impact, Integrated Solutions, Miami
Harry & Irene Patterson, High Springs Gardens, Co-owners, Alachua
Mike McNicholas, Enviro Mechanical, President, Hialeah
Barbara Neeld, Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville, Member, Jacksonville
Richard Furman, New Energy Technology, Consulting Engineer, Miami
Kathleen Aterno, Clean Water Action, State Director
Sara E. Fain, National Parks Conservation Assoc., Everglades Restoration Program Manager, Hollywood
Brian Paradise, Ponte Vedra Beach
John H. Fitch, PhD., Florida Gulf Coast University, Sustaining Tomorrow Today, Director, Ft. Myers
Michael Welber, City of Marathon - Florida Green Team, Chair, Marathon
Gulf Coast Environmental Defense, Gulf Breeze
Big Bend Climate Action Network, Tallahassee
Melissa and Jason Baldwin, Tampa
Matthew Langholtz, PhD., BioResource Management, Gainesville
Lance Orchid, Alliance for Climate Protection, Florida State Director
Reverend Dr. Warren Clark, Associate Director for Faiths United for Sustainable Energy, Tampa
Rabbi David Wiexman, Senior Rabbi, Beth Shalom Congregation, Clearwater
Wayne Gideons, President of Yaroke USA, Seffner
Rebecca Turner, Treasure Island

Georgia

Dave Kyler, Center for a Sustainable Coast, Executive Director, St. Simons Island
Sharon Foxworthy, Clean Air Campaign of Georgia, Northwest Georgia Representative, Rome
Paul Wolff, Georgia City Councilman, Tybee Island
Tom Ferguson, Foundation for Global Community, Atlanta
S. Glenn Farris, Biomass Gas & Electric, LLC, President and CEO, Norcross
Gordon Rogers, Satilla RIVERKEEPER, Executive Director, Waynesville
Joseph F. Meucci, Steam Turbine Generators, LLC, Owner, Woodstock

Louisiana

The Gulf Restoration Network, New Orleans

Maryland

Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Takoma Park
Ken Bossong, SUN DAY Campaign, Executive Director, Takoma Park

North Carolina

Nicole Fouche, NC Chair, CARE Action Network and Co-founder, NC Coalition for International Advocacy, Durham
Orrin Pilkey, PhD., Duke University, James B. Duke Professor of Earth Science Emeritus, Durham
Environment North Carolina, Raleigh
Carolyn Prior, Coastal Water Watch, Co-Director, Southport
Lee and William Ahern, Raleigh
Susan Tompkins, Charlotte
Margaret Hartzell, Global Warming Advocate, Raleigh
Glenn Mauney, Wind Energy Consulting and Contracting, Inc., Dir. of Business Development, Charlotte
Roberta Dees, Charlotte
Mayor Renee Cahoon, Nags Head
Aubrey Davis, Owner, Outer Banks Brewing Station, Kill Devil Hills
Chris Dumas, PhD., Professor of Economics, University of North Carolina, Wilmington
North Carolina Coastal Federation
North Carolina Conservation Network, Raleigh
Carrie Clark, Conservation Council of North Carolina, Executive Director, Raleigh
Carolyn McCormick, Former Outer Banks Visitors Bureau, Nags Head
Scott McKellar, Owner, Alternative Builders, Elizabeth City
Erica Ramjohn, Regional Entrepreneurship Coord., River City CDC, Elizabeth City

South Carolina

Toni Reale, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Coastal Program Coordinator, Charleston
The South Carolina Coastal Conservation League, Charleston
Christine Ellis, Waccamaw Riverkeeper, Founder, Conway
Ann Shahid, Audubon South Carolina, Climate and Energy Outreach Coordinator, Harleyville
Jane Lareau, Mt. Pleasant
Nancy Cave, Georgetown
Azure MacConnell, R.N., James Island
Susan Corbett, South Carolina Sierra Club, Chair, Columbia
Frank Knapp, Jr., South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce, President and CEO, Columbia
Mary Edna Fraser, Environmental Artist, Charleston
Adam MacConnell, GEL Engineering, Hydrogeologist, Charleston
Chris Marsh, Port Royal
Nicholas C. Rigas, PhD., Clemson University Restoration Institute, North Charleston

Ian Sanchez, Outdoor Educator, James Island

The South Carolina Wildlife Federation, Columbia

Stan Frick, Columbia

Jennifer Dickerson, Senior Account Executive, Carolina Plastics, Inc., Seneca

Charleston Natural History Society, Charleston

Jennifer Hatch, Consulting Engineer, Facility Strategies Group, Ft. Mill

Dave Sailor, Vice President of Business Development, Argand Energy Solutions, Charleston

Dennis Knight, PE LEED AP, Liliollo Architecture, Charleston

Thomas Kephart, McClellanville

The Kitchen Table Climate Study Group, McClellanville