

If you are interested in signing, email your name, business/organization and title (*you may also sign just as a citizen*), city and state to toni@cleanenergy.org no later than Oct. 2nd. Early sign-ons much appreciated. Please feel free to forward.

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

October XX, 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.

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

Georgia

Florida

Louisiana

Maryland

North Carolina

Virginia

South Carolina

Toni Reale, James Island

Adam MacConnell, James Island

Regional

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy