

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 19, 2010

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

Representing a diverse group of States and regions, we believe the United States Senate should consider bipartisan and comprehensive clean energy and climate legislation this year with a renewed focus on jobs and reduced dependence on foreign oil.

Our lack of a comprehensive clean energy policy hurts job creation and increases regulatory uncertainty throughout our economy. Businesses are waiting on clear signals from Congress before investing billions in energy, transportation, manufacturing, buildings and other sectors. America's competitiveness and export strength are also at stake. Asia and Europe are moving aggressively to take the lead in efficiency, renewables, clean coal, batteries, nuclear energy and other technologies. We need to take action in order to lead the emerging sectors that will drive our economic recovery.




While uncertainty hurts job creation, clean energy legislation can create jobs. Over the past decade, clean energy sectors have been creating jobs at over twice the rate of overall job growth. For established energy and manufacturing sectors, clean energy incentives will deploy the next generation of technologies that preserve and grow jobs in those sectors as well.

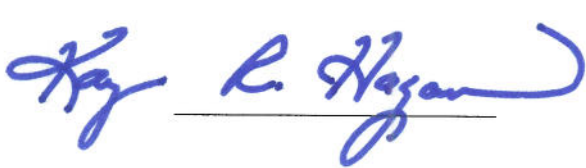
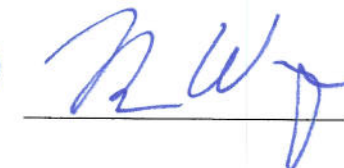
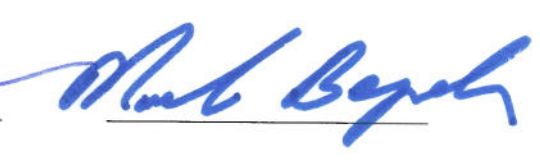
We recognize that achieving agreement in the Senate will be a challenge, but across the country, Americans are coming together behind this effort. Recently, over 80 leading manufacturers, businesses, national security experts, veterans' groups, labor unions and faith-based groups called for "bi-partisan, national energy and climate legislation that increases our security and limits emissions, as it preserves and creates jobs." The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has stated that "climate change is an important issue for this Congress to address." By working together, we can meet the challenge.

We are also deeply concerned with spending hundreds of billions of dollars each year on imported oil from unstable regions. These billions spent overseas burden families' budgets and threaten our national security. Gridlock will only continue more of the same, but a comprehensive energy strategy can break our addiction to foreign oil.

Thank you for your work to build consensus and facilitate bipartisan cooperation on these important economic and national security issues.

Sincerely,


Tom Udall 
Jeanne Shaheen 
Ron F. Burdett


Kay R. Hagan 
R. W. Byrd 
Mark Begich

Shepard Brown

Tom Carpenter

Al Franken

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Tim Kampfer

Bob Carey, Jr.

Mimi Combs

Jon Tester

Tom Harkin

Mark Udall

Debbie Stabenow

Patty Murray

Richard W. Blumenthal

Mark R. Warner

Allen Sneed

Amy Klobuchar