



Contact: CLEAN Chair and Minnesota State Rep. Jeremy Kalin  
Rep.Jeremy.Kalin@House.mn or 612-875-2546

January 25, 2010

President Barack Obama  
Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi  
House Minority Leader John Boehner  
Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid  
House Minority Leader Mitch McConnell  
Members of the 111st Congress

Dear President Obama, Speaker Pelosi, Representative Boehner, Leader Reid,  
Senator McConnell, and all members of the 111st Congress,

**As leaders in state legislatures across the country, we call on you to pass comprehensive clean energy jobs and climate change legislation.**

**State legislators have been leading clean energy efforts for decades.** As the laboratories of democracy, states have proven that clean energy jobs and climate legislation results in job growth, in greater security, and in spurring American leadership and innovation.

#### **CLEAN ENERGY JOBS**

**29 states have passed Renewable Portfolio Standards and four more have set renewable energy goals,** requiring that a significant percentage of that states' electricity be generated from non-fossil fuels. These renewable electricity requirements have led to significant job growth in the clean-energy sector.

**Nearly every state in the nation has made energy-efficiency a priority.** These energy efficiency investments have helped major industries stay competitive, and have helped schools, cities, counties, and other local governments save hundreds of millions of dollars in energy costs.

**In states where renewable power and energy efficiency is a policy priority, the clean energy economy has outpaced the rest of the economy, in**

some cases nearly 10 to 1. While other sectors of the economy have been losing jobs, the clean energy economy is a bright spot for job creation.

**State and local governments are seeing the benefit of clean energy jobs legislation, but we also face steep costs due to the risks associated with climate change.** The costs and instabilities involve massive flooding and major hurricane damage, sustained droughts and widespread agricultural pests and diseases, and major biological disruptions affecting our water and food supply, health care, and public safety. These catastrophic costs affect insurance payouts and higher premiums for private- and public-sector policyholders. They also involve unprecedented economic losses to industry and to federal, state and local governments.

### **NATIONAL SECURITY**

**America's dependence on foreign energy makes our nation vulnerable, in terms of economics and national security.**

**According to the Energy Information Agency, our federal energy trade deficit is approximately \$1 billion a day, or more than \$10,000 a second.** To fuel our economy, we depend on unstable, unfriendly nations who don't share American values. As a result, in the words of former CIA Director James Woolsey and Senator John McCain, we are funding both sides of the war on terror.

Our nation's most respected military leaders recognize that climate change is a threat multiplier for instability in the most volatile regions of the world. **The climate change threat presents significant national security challenges for the United States – challenges that should be addressed today, because they will almost certainly get worse if we delay.**

### **AMERICAN LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION**

**The global economy is increasingly a clean energy economy.** We must ensure that we do not replace our reliance on Middle Eastern oil with a reliance on Chinese solar panels and South American biofuels. As a nation, we have always relied on the ingenuity of the American people to solve our problems, and a federal clean energy jobs and climate bill will give American innovation the chance to shine again.

Through its centrally-controlled economy, China has quickly leaped ahead on renewable energy development, including the world's largest solar power plant. India is moving forward with its ambitious National Action Plan on Climate Change. **The United States of America cannot allow nearly every other nation to beat us to the clean energy economy.**

Today, American industry faces a confusing patchwork of state incentives, regulation and energy and emission targets that hinders innovation. **Only Congress can provide a predictable, national framework that will spur innovation and discovery in the clean energy sector.**

Forty years ago, the Apollo 11 mission provided a dramatic display of America's innovation and spirit of discovery. President John F. Kennedy explained that we chose to "go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills."

**The clean energy and climate challenge is America's new space race.** The United States has never backed down from a challenge on this scale, and we urge you to again place our country at the forefront of innovation and prosperity.

**We, the undersigned state legislators, call on you to enact comprehensive clean energy jobs and climate legislation that relies on continued close collaboration between state and federal governments. We pledge our support in pursuit of a more prosperous, more secure, and more energy independent America.**

Sincerely,

CLEAN Chair, Minnesota State Rep. Jeremy Kalin, on behalf of 1,198 state lawmakers from 49 states