

**Audubon \* Clean Water Action \* Defenders of Wildlife \* Earthjustice \* Friends of the Earth  
Friends Committee on National Legislation \* Greenpeace \* National Environmental Trust  
Natural Resources Defense Council \* Physicians for Social Responsibility \* Public Citizen  
Sierra Club \* The Wilderness Society \* Union of Concerned Scientists \* U.S. PIRG**

August 2, 2007

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our millions of members and activists, we urge you to take decisive action to move our country towards a clean and secure energy future by voting for the New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act (HR 3220), the Udall-Platts renewable electricity standard amendment to HR 3220, and the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2007 (HR 2776).

The House this week has the opportunity to enact a forward-looking energy bill that takes meaningful steps toward solving global warming, setting the stage for this Fall's debate on comprehensive global warming legislation, and helping to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, including oil. We urge you to support the clean energy provisions already in the bill and to strengthen the legislation with a renewable electricity standard so that we can move boldly toward a new energy future. We also urge you to reject any amendment that would make it more difficult to reduce global warming pollution.

A House energy package must include a strong renewable electricity standard, robust energy efficiency standards, and environmental and public health safeguards in any standard that increases biofuels production. Federal support for liquid coal fuel is incompatible with environmental protection and climate stability and must be kept out of the energy package. In addition, any energy independence legislation that goes to the President's desk should cut our dependence on oil by including strong fuel economy standards like those in HR 1506, introduced by Congressmen Markey and Platts. It is essential that any energy legislation ensures reductions in carbon dioxide emissions and helps avert the most dangerous consequences of global warming. Specifically, we ask you to:

- **Support HR 3220 and HR 2776:** While we have not taken a position on all of the provisions of HR 3220 and HR 2776, we urge passage of these bills because they contain many important energy and climate provisions that will help move the nation towards a more proactive policy for reducing global warming pollution.

The provisions of the Natural Resources Title (Title VII) of HR 3220 will take important steps toward restoring sound stewardship to the management of our public lands, ensuring responsible domestic energy development, developing alternative energy sources, and helping America's fish and wildlife, public lands, coasts, and oceans adapt to global warming. The energy efficiency provisions of the Energy and Commerce Title (Title IX) of HR 3221 will not only save consumers and businesses money, but also reduce global warming pollution. Title IX sets aggressive targets for strengthening state building energy efficiency codes, adopts beneficial reforms to Department of Energy (DOE) authority to issue energy efficiency standards for appliance and equipment products, and establishes new efficiency standards for products such as light bulbs, dishwashers and clothes washers.

We also urge you to support HR 2776. There are a number of clean energy provisions in the bill, which include an extension of the energy efficient commercial buildings deduction, closure of the SUV tax loophole, and an extension of the renewable production tax credit. The bill would also eliminate approximately \$15 billion in unnecessary oil and gas tax breaks.

The clean energy provisions of HR 3220 and HR 2776 will slow the growth of global warming pollution, help create new jobs here in America, and save consumers and businesses money.

- **Include a Strong Renewable Electricity Standard:** The House should adopt the amendment offered by Congressmen Tom Udall and Todd Platts that would add a renewable electricity standard to HR 3220. The standard would require utilities to produce 15% of their electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020. This standard would boost the production of clean, renewable energy sources like wind, biomass, geothermal and solar power while creating jobs and saving consumers money. Already, twenty-three states across the country, and the District of Columbia, have adopted renewable electricity standards. We urge you to reject any definition of renewable energy that would dilute environmental and job creation benefits by including non-renewable energy sources.
- **Keep Out Any Requirement to Increase Biofuels Unless it Includes Critical Safeguards:** Done right, biofuels have the potential to produce clean, renewable energy that will help increase energy independence and reduce global warming pollution. However, any new or expanded renewable fuel standard must be an amendment to the existing biofuels program established under the Clean Air Act by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Moreover, any policy requiring an increase in biofuels production must be combined with necessary protections for our air, land, forests, water, wildlife habitat and public health. Without these safeguards, a significant mandatory increase in biofuels production would carry grave risk to our environment, human health and climate.
- **Keep Out Any Provision That Promotes Liquid Coal.** Producing transportation fuels from coal will make it more difficult to achieve the needed reductions in carbon dioxide emissions, as well as cause additional environmental harms associated with coal production, transportation and conversion. We urge you to reject any amendment that would establish a mandate or incentives to produce liquid coal.
- **Support Amendments to Protect U.S. Taxpayers from Excessive Financial Risks of Loan Guarantees.** Section 9202 prevents appropriators from excluding any category of eligible projects from loan guarantees, overriding language in the House FY08 Energy and Water Appropriations bill that prevents the loan program from being used for new nuclear power plants. Congress should retain its authority, as provided in the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, to protect U.S. taxpayers from guaranteeing loans for excessively risky and costly projects.

The House has an opportunity to enact legislation that will set a new direction for our country on energy policy by helping to break our oil addiction and slow the growth of global warming pollution. We urge you to take this long-overdue step by passing HR 3221, the Udall-Platts renewable electricity standard amendment, and HR 2776.

Sincerely,

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