

(71 Presidents Signed on as of 7/6/09)

The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe, Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer and Ranking Member Inhofe:

We, the undersigned presidents of colleges and universities from across the nation, write to urge you to recognize the vital role of education, at all levels, in preparing the American people to participate fully in a clean energy economy. Specifically, we urge you to dedicate in the Senate climate bill at least 1% of the proceeds of emissions allowances for a range of educational activities, similar to the amendment Senators Murray and Snowe introduced to the Climate Security Act last year.

Climate change is the defining challenge of our century, a challenge that will directly impact every sector of society. In all likelihood, the pace of change will rival or exceed the past quarter century's information technology revolution. How the American people respond to the climate challenge will determine the United States' standing in the world for decades to come.

Last Friday, the House of Representatives took an historic step in passing climate legislation, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (H.R. 2454). In passing this bill, the House formally acknowledged the gravity of climate change and, for the first time ever, approved comprehensive steps to cap carbon emissions and shift to renewable energy.

The House-passed bill funds research in new technologies, worker training for green jobs, and many other urgent priorities, which we fully support. However, the House bill overlooks the broader role of education in helping Americans understand the connection between energy and our economy in order to make well-informed decisions as consumers, workers, business owners, investors and voters. Successfully navigating the transition to a clean energy economy and coping with the effects of unavoidable climate change will require a broad base of environmentally literate and competent citizens: architects, engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs, managers, financial experts, lawyers, and political leaders – in addition to well-informed consumers and a workforce trained in green jobs.

To produce such a literate workforce and citizenry, America needs to invest in education at every level:

- **retool our nation's universities and colleges** to become centers of education, workforce training, and research in alternative energy, energy efficiency, and new technologies;

- **revitalize K-12 education** by strengthening environmental education, social studies, and "STEM Education for a Sustainable Future" to provide all students with a basic understanding of the relationships among environmental, economic and social systems;
- **bolster existing career pathways programs** to provide more green educational and training opportunities for youth and young adults;
- **retrain practicing professionals** to contribute to a clean energy economy; and
- **mount major public education programs** to inform the public and educate consumers.

As presidents of colleges and universities across the nation, we stand ready to provide leadership in the nation's transition to a clean energy economy. In fact, higher education currently leads all other sectors in confronting the challenges of climate change and finding practical solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Each year, our education system sends three million graduates into the workforce, who need to have the skills and knowledge to contribute to and participate fully in a clean energy economy.

We appreciate your consideration of the opportunity at hand. In our view, dedicating "1% for Education" of the proceeds of emissions allowances is a strategic investment in the American people that will pay rich dividends. For additional information about higher education's leadership in sustainability or for contact information for the signatories to this letter, please contact Don Ryan at Second Nature at 703-508-0035 or dryan@secondnature.org.

Sincerely,

The following presidents of colleges and universities:

Adelphi University
Robert A. Scott, President

Agnes Scott College
Elizabeth Kiss, President

Akron Institute of Herzing University
David L. LaRue, Campus President

Anna Maria College
Jack P. Calareso, President

Arizona State University
Michael Crow, President

Bellevue College

Jean Floten, President

Bellingham Technical College
Thomas Eckert, President

Berea College
Larry D. Shinn, President

Bristol Community College
John J. Sbrega, President

Bunker Hill Community College
Mary L. Fifield, President

California State University, Monterey Bay
Dianne F. Harrison, President

Castleton College
Dave Wolk, President

Central Washington University
James L. Gaudino, President

Chatham University
Esther Barazzone, President

College of the Atlantic
David Hales, President

Coppin State University
Reginald Avery, President

Delaware Valley College
Joseph Brosnan, President

Eastern Iowa Community College District
Patricia A. Keir, Chancellor

Eureka College
J. David Arnold, President

Finlandia University
Philip Johnson, President

Florida Gulf Coast University
Wilson G. Bradshaw, President

Furman University
David Shi, President

Georgetown College
William Crouch, President

Goshen College
James E. Brenneman, President

Green Mountain College
Paul J. Fonteyn, President

Hartwick College
Margaret L. Drugovick, President

Harvey Mudd College
Maria M. Klawe, President

Houston Community College
Mary S. Spangler, Chancellor

Imperial Community College District
Ed Gould, Superintendent/President

Kalamazoo College
Eileen Wilson-Oyelaran, President

Kansas City Kansas Community College
Thomas R. Burke, President

Kennebec Valley Community College
Barbara Woodlee, President

Lasell College
Michael B. Alexander, President

Lee College
Michael T. Murphy, President

Luther College
Rick Torgerson, President

Monterey Peninsula College
Douglas R. Garrison, Superintendent/President

Mount Mary College
Eileen Schwalbach, President

Muhlenberg College
Peyton R. Helm, President

The National Graduate School of Quality Management
Bob Gee, President

Oakton Community College
Margaret B. Lee, President

Oberlin College
Marvin Krislov, President

Our Lady of the Lake College
Sandra S. Harper, President

Pacific Union College
Nancy Lecourt, Acting President

Park University
Michael H. Droge, President

Portland State University
Wim Wiewel, President

Rio Salado College
Linda M. Thor, President

Riverland Community College
Terrence Leas, President

Riverside City College
Jan Muto, President

Sacramento City College
Kathryn E. Jeffery, President

San Francisco State University

Robert A. Corrigan, President

Southwest Minnesota State University
David C. Danahar, President

Southwestern University
Jake Schrum, President

Spelman College
Beverly Daniel Tatum, President

St. Louis Community College at Meramec
Paul Pai, President

State University of New York at Cortland
Erik J. Bitterbaum, President

State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Cornelius B. Murphy, Jr., President

Towson University
Robert Caret, President

Trident Technical College
Mary Thornley, President

Union College
Stephen C. Ainlay, President

Unity College
Mitchell Thomashow, President

University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
Jean F. MacCormack, Chancellor

University of Montana
George M. Dennison, President

Villa Maria College
Marcella Marie Garus, President

Warren Wilson College
William Sandborn Pfeiffer, President

Wenatchee Valley College
Jim Richardson, President

Western Technical College
Lee Rasch, President

Wilkes University
Joseph E. Gilmour, President

Williston State College
Raymond Nadolny, President

Winona State University
Judith Ramaley, President

Winthrop University
Anthony J. DiGiorgio, President

Zane State College
Paul R. Brown, President