



Leo W. Gerard  
International President

July 10, 2007

U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 850,000 members of the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union (USW), I write to express our support for the "Low Carbon Economy Act of 2007" legislation proposed by Senator Bingaman (D-NM) and Senator Specter (R-PA) to address the growing problem of global warming.

The United Steelworkers' efforts to create safer living and working environmental conditions for our members goes back almost forty years. As the largest industrial union in North America, our Union has long recognized that some of the industries represented by our membership have historically been major contributors to the problem of global warming. The USW firmly believes that a clean and healthy environment is a fundamental human right and that the industries that employ our members have a responsibility to ensure this for our members and their communities. We believe that good jobs and a clean environment go hand-in-hand, and because of this, have made it a point to establish a role for our members and our Union in the shaping and development of sound and realistic energy policy for our nation.

As a Commissioner on the National Commission on Energy Policy (NCEP), I had the opportunity to work closely with representatives from the energy and automobile industries, the environmental and labor communities as well as former administration officials and educators to discuss and develop the steps that are necessary to get our country on the path towards energy independence and reducing the rate of GHG's in our atmosphere.

The legislation proposed by Senators Bingaman and Specter reflects many of the recommendations NCEP Commissioners suggested in our 2004 report, and

addresses areas of concern raised by the labor community. As a result, we believe that the Bingaman/Specter proposal represents a promising first step in reducing our nation's emissions of GHG's. Among other things, the legislation would allow for the following:

- ***Economy-Wide Cap and Trade System:*** GHG's are emitted at various levels and from various sectors of the economy. Including an economy-wide emissions trading system provides for an equitable solution to slowing the effects of GHG's, while not placing a disproportionate burden on any sector.
- ***Investment in new technologies and "green energy" jobs:*** The legislation establishes a fund that would ensure greater investment in clean energy technologies and the "green jobs" of the future that will serve to strengthen a greatly weakened U.S. manufacturing base.
- ***International Reserve Allowance Requirement:*** This important provision would ensure the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers by holding countries who export goods to the U.S., like China and India, accountable for their GHG emissions.
- ***Transition Period:*** The legislation also allows for a transition period that gives U.S. companies time to transition to new and cleaner technologies.

We believe the time to act on legislation curbing our nation's GHG's emissions is now, and that the "Low Carbon Economy Act of 2007" represents a balanced first step in this process. We urge you to co-sponsor and support this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Leo W. Gerard  
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