

The Honorable John Kerry
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joseph Lieberman
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

March 18, 2010

Dear Senators Kerry, Graham and Lieberman,

On behalf of the millions of individuals from across the country that our organizations represent, we want to thank you for your continuing commitment to passing comprehensive clean energy and climate legislation this year. As part of that effort, we urge you to create American jobs on American lands that will safeguard natural resources from the impacts of climate change to the benefit of people, communities and wildlife. This should come from the establishment of a guiding framework that helps federal, state and tribal natural resource agencies to restore and strengthen the resiliency of our natural resources and a significant investment of allowances dedicated to this purpose from the clean energy and climate bill you are writing.

By creating American jobs on American lands you will revitalize local economies through the restoration and protection of public lands, national and state parks, waters and wildlife habitat. Creating sustainable jobs that cannot be outsourced to restore coastlines, forests, deserts and rivers to health is good policy and good politics. These areas are usually adjacent to, or contained within, America's rural communities, and rural workers – ranging from construction crews to biologists to engineers – already have many of the skills to do these jobs. They simply need the direction and the funding. Dedicating allocations to increase the resilience of lands and waters so they can better adjust to climate changes puts America to work today, and protects nature's invaluable benefits for tomorrow.

Because ecosystem restoration is labor intensive and uses few raw materials, most funding goes directly to job creation and investment has a high multiplier effect. A recent study by University of Massachusetts¹, showed that for every million dollars invested in forest and ecosystem restoration, up to 40 jobs would be created or retained. Likewise, a recent study from the University of Oregon² has shown that for every \$1 million invested in western forest restoration, between \$2.1-2.3 million of economic activity is generated.

Healthy natural systems are also the basis of a huge segment of our current economy. Seventy five percent of all commercial fishing in the U.S. depends on estuaries in some way; fish caught in estuaries generates over \$1.4 billion in annual revenues for locally-based fishermen. Outdoor recreation, including hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, climbing, hiking, paddling, backcountry skiing, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, and other activities accounts for 8% of all consumer

¹ Garrett-Peltier, Heidi and Robert Pollin "How Infrastructure Investments Support the U.S. Economy: Employment, Productivity and Growth," Political Economy Research Institute, January 2009, <http://www.peri.umass.edu/236/hash/efc9f7456a/publication/333/>

² Moseley, Cassandra and Max Nielsen-Pincus, "Economic Impact and Job Creation from Forest and Watershed Restoration: A Preliminary Assessment," Institute for Sustainable Environment, University of Oregon. Winter 2009.

spending, which drives an overall annual contribution of \$730 billion to the economy, supporting 6.5 million jobs (1 of every 20 jobs in the U.S.), according to The Outdoor Industry Foundation. The economic value of the natural environment is far higher when the vast range of ecosystem services is also included; conservative estimates tally these benefits at trillions of dollars annually.

Above all, we have a moral imperative to protect nature from the impacts of climate change. Coastal wetlands are threatened by increasing storms and rising seas, putting cities from Boston to Charleston to New Orleans in harm's way. Furthermore, in the lifetime of a child born today, twenty to thirty percent of species will be at great risk of extinction. Climate change poses an immediate and profound threat to the healthy natural systems that provide us with drinking water, flood protection, food, medicine, timber, and numerous other services. By investing in allocations to safeguard natural resources in a comprehensive clean energy and climate bill, you will be revitalizing local economies and reinvigorating local communities, all while ensuring our children have the same outdoor opportunities and benefits of nature that we enjoy.

Please ensure your clean energy and climate bill establishes a guiding framework for natural resource adaptation and dedicates significant allowance value to federal, state and tribal agencies. Allowance value should be used to implement identified actions needed to conserve natural resources in a warming world according to the guiding framework, and thereby create American jobs on American lands.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Wodder, President
American Rivers

Rodger Schlickeisen, President and CEO
Defenders of Wildlife

Tripp Van Noppen, President
Earthjustice

Leda Huta, Executive Director
Endangered Species Coalition

Elgie Holstein, Vice President for Land, Water, and Wildlife
Environmental Defense Fund

David Hoskins, Executive Director
Izaak Walton League of America

Frank Gill, President
National Audubon Society

Thomas C. Kiernon, President
National Parks Conservation Association

Larry Schweiger, President and CEO
National Wildlife Federation

Mark Tercek, President and CEO
The Nature Conservancy

Adam Cramer, Policy Architect
Outdoor Alliance

Frank Hugelmeyer, President and CEO
Outdoor Industry Association

Jeff Benoit, President and CEO
Restore America's Estuaries

Michael Brune, Executive Director
Sierra Club

Will Rogers, President
Trust for Public Land

Bill Meadows, President
The Wilderness Society

Michael Hutchins, President
The Wildlife Society

John F. Calvelli, Exec. Vice President, Public Affairs
Wildlife Conservation Society

CC: Senator Max Baucus
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
Senator Tom Udall