



May 27, 2014

Governor John W. Hickenlooper  
136 State Capitol  
Denver, CO 80203-1792

Governor Hickenlooper:

We urge your administration to take a comprehensive approach to facilitating a clean energy economy through the reduction of carbon pollution from power plants while maintaining a strong local economy for our businesses. As local business owners and investors within the state of Colorado, we understand the importance of certainty and clear market signals in order to clarify risks and opportunities for our businesses.

In June 2013, President Obama released his Climate Action Plan and outlined ways for the Administration to use existing authorities to reduce carbon pollution, adapt infrastructure to a more unstable climate, and mitigate future climate-related risks. The President voiced his willingness to work on a "bipartisan, market-based solution to climate change" but in the absence of Congressional action, directed EPA to move forward with standards for power plants under the Clean Air Act.

As EPA moves forward with establishing carbon pollution power plant standards, we, as members of the business community, strongly believe that limiting carbon pollution will create substantial economic opportunity. It is an essential step towards spurring innovation, job creation and investment in low and no-carbon technologies as well as new energy infrastructure and energy efficiency.

In a July 2013 letter, you and other Governors conveyed your support for the President's Climate Action Plan and the need for state and federal governments to work hand in hand to develop the power plant standards and build on states' progress to reduce carbon pollution. We applaud your commitment and urge you to engage directly with EPA as they seek to develop guidance on existing power plant standards.

Furthermore, climate change is exacerbating extreme weather events and changing weather patterns that impact Colorado and our nation's economic well-being. For example, Colorado's average winter temperature has increased and its snow season has shortened significantly. Colorado's ski industry is the largest in the nation and data indicate winter tourism generates \$2.2 billion in economic value annually, supports 37,800 jobs, and \$1.2 billion in salaries. According to a December 2012 report authored by researchers at the University of New Hampshire, winters with lower snowfall as compared to winters with high snowfall in the last decade have cost CO ski resorts an estimated \$154 million in lost revenue, an 8 percent decline in skier visits, and over 1,800 fewer jobs. And as nighttime temperatures increase as projected, snowmaking becomes a less effective adaptation strategy for ski resorts while also straining limited water resources.

NRDC's 2012 Extreme Weather Map confirms that Colorado experienced 80 broken heat records, 12 broken snow records, 22 broken precipitation records, and 43 large wildfires. As temperatures rise, declining winter snowpack and drought are threatening Colorado's \$41 billion agribusiness industry, as well as its winter and water recreation industries that depend on pristine public recreation areas. Changes

in weather patterns and extreme weather events have implications across all economic sectors, and for businesses in particular can result in the unavailability of insurance, higher commodity prices, the loss of customer base and employees, and the reduced economic well-being of our communities.

Business owners in Colorado are eager for pragmatic energy policies that can develop new technologies, increase business opportunities and create a more stable economy through climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. They understand that to survive in this tough economy they need creative solutions to curb costs and increase their competitive edge. These include continued government support for investments in clean energy and the enforcement of standards that reduce harmful pollution in their communities.

Colorado is well placed to succeed in an economy focused on reducing carbon pollution. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Colorado has over 74,000 jobs in green goods and services, including 30,000 in clean tech, 14,000 in energy efficiency and 5,000 in the wind industry. Over just the past two years, the clean energy projects announced in Colorado are expected to create over 1,800 jobs in the solar, wind, and biogas industries. With a well-defined market signal on carbon pollution it is fair to expect this growth to continue and accelerate.

Clean energy policies are good for our environment, the economy, and businesses. We are ready to stand by you to ensure our businesses and our communities are protected and doing their part to take action to fight climate change.

Sincerely,

Mile High Business Alliance (Denver, CO)

Channing Arndt, Investor (Ft. Collins, CO)

Holly Beaver, Consultant, Educator & Technical Assistance (Evergreen, CO)

Jeff Bennett, Founder, Big Kid Science (Boulder, CO)

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Andrew Currie, Investor, Active Minds LLC (Boulder, CO)

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